Cop, retired US Army Reserve plead not guilty. PAGE 2
September proclaimed Cultural Heritage Month. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

DHS: Federal court no jurisdiction over CUC's, CW workers' lawsuit

FIRST DAY OF SERVICE

ERWIN ENCINARES

Students from Marianas High School apply a fresh coat of paint on the steps of the amphitheater area of the American Memorial Park last Saturday, Aug. 27, a day after the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. The cleanup was dubbed First Day of Service and also saw the Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, and other community groups and individuals take part in the voluntary work.

See story on Page 2

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson stated that the U.S. District Court for the NMI has no jurisdiction over the lawsuit filed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its 13 foreign workers affected by CNMI-only transitional workers (CW-1) cap.

Johnson

Johnson and co-defendants, through Department of Justice Office of Immigration assistant director Glenn M. Girdharry, filed on Saturday a motion to dismiss CUC and its 13 foreign workers' lawsuit.

Girdharry said the Administrative Procedure Act expressly precludes judicial review of DHS' administration of the CW-1 visa cap because it is an agency action committed to

See DHS on Page 4

Larson: Inos directly ordered transfer of funds to Luta Mermaid LLC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Deputy AG Tenorio believes monies transferred were for public purpose**

Department of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson disclosed that when she transferred government funds to Luta Mermaid LLC she did so pursuant to a direct order of the then-governor, the late Eloy S. Inos.

Luta Mermaid LLC owns M/V *Luta*, a 150-foot long 500-ton cargo ship. Larson allegedly caused $400,000 to be transferred from the CNMI General Fund Account to Luta Mermaid LLC's bank account on March 27, 2015 or two days later after a memorandum from the Rota Legislative Delegation was sent to Larson. The memorandum stated that Resolution 19-3 was adopted by the Rota Legislative Delegation on March 20, 2015.

Larson, through deputy attorney general Lillian A. Tenorio, said any unlawful results of her actions complained of in the lawsuit of former

See LARSON on Page 4

Torres asks Senate to speed up passage of budget

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is asking the Senate to quickly pass the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017 so he would have the chance to review and sign it before the Sept. 30, 2016 deadline. House Bill 19-196 or

Torres

the budget act is now at the Senate after the House of Representatives passed it last week.

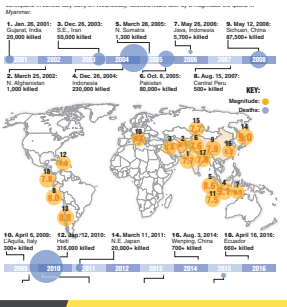
HB 19-196 appropriates $142 million of the government's resources to fund its departments and agencies for the coming fiscal year, which starts on Oct.

See TORRES on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The newly re-lit Beach Road Pathway was hit by vandals on Tuesday night, Aug. 23, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

PAGE 8



WORLD
Italian authorities are vowing to investigate whether negligence or fraud in adhering to building codes played a role in the high death toll in last week's earthquake in Italy.

PAGE 17

OVERDRIVE
My passenger and I figured maybe in the thrill of new car buttons, the kids accidentally cracked a window. They didn't. The 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe is just loud.

PAGE 19

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

IN SEPARATE CASES OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

Cop, retired US Army Reserve plead not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rota Police Officer Melvin Maratita Manglona and retired U.S. Army Reserve Michael Barry Murphy both pleaded not guilty yesterday to separate charges that they sexually abused minor girls.

At an arraignment, Manglona, through counsel assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, pleaded not guilty to the information charging him with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of disturbing the peace.

Murphy, through counsel Janet H. King, pleaded not guilty to the information charging him with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Manglona, 48, and Murphy, 54, both waived reading of their constitutional rights.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja set a status conference for Manglona on Oct. 5 at 9am and for Murphy on Oct. 4 at 9am.

Acting chief prosecutor Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government.

Manglona and Murphy remain under detention for failing to post $100,000 and $50,000 cash bail, respectively.

The Office of the Attorney General alleged that Manglona sexually abused a 14-year-old girl last July and Aug. 11, 2016 on Rota.

Manglona allegedly touched the girl's private part last Aug. 1, and caused her to have suicidal thoughts from July 2016 to Aug. 11, 2016.

The girl told police that Manglona has been sexually abusing her since she was 9 years old and that the recent sexual encounter happened just last Aug. 11.

In Murphy's case, the OAG alleged that the defendant sexually abused a 4-year-old girl last Aug. 6 on Saipan.

The OAG is planning to file separate charges against Murphy for allegedly sexually abusing the girl's 20-year-old mother, who disclosed that the defendant also sexually abused her when she was 9 to 12 years old between 2005 and 2008.

Another woman, 26, also told police that the defendant sexually abused her when she was 9 to 14 years old at a house in Capital Hill and in a jungle in Obyan.

Diversity showcased anew at Int'l Festival of Cultures

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The 2016 International Festival of Cultures is one of the newest attractions at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan and started since Aug. 20.

The event is hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority and it aims to highlight all the different cultures that are present in the CNMI.

MVA Community Project specialists Ryan Calvo said that besides giving free samples of traditionally roasted pig, the International Festival of Cultures also wants to showcase the different cultures of the CNMI while giving locals and tourists something in return.

"When we started in 2014 we wanted to get all the diverse cultural groups in the CNMI together to promote the diversity of the CNMI for two targets: our local community; something for them to do too, and mainly for our tourists from abroad," said Calvo.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Carolinian performers take a break from performing at the 2016 International Festival of Cultures at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan last Saturday.

A lot of pride comes with being able to participate in the festival. "I feel proud and honored to be asked to perform and promote our culture to tourists and as well as to our local community. We need to revive it by showcasing our culture heritage through songs and dances," said Annale Sablan-Torres, one of the group leaders of the Manantigu Cultural Production Petlas Marianas Simiya Lina'la's.

Although the festival started in 2014, the International Festival of Cultures wasn't held in 2015 due to Typhoon Soudelor's rampage. In 2016, the International Festival of Cultures continued. "in 2014 that was our first annual. In 2015 we wanted to do it again but unfortunately Typhoon Soudelor hit so we put everything off because everyone was busy recovering. This year we marked it as the second, a continuation," said Calvo.

"We have majority of the same group as the first but this year we decided to have six Saturdays in order to add more to the event. The first and second Saturday is like a soft opening, where the CNMI hosts the opening."

Calvo says more are in store for the International Festival of Cultures. With the following weeks to come, the event would be even more festive. "Come September 3rd, that's where we're going to have all the groups come in. So we're looking at everybody coming in and it's going to be more active; more participation and activities for everybody," shared Calvo.

The International Festival of Cultures would be going on every Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan from 5pm to 10pm. Starting Sept. 3, more cultural groups would be joining the International Festival of Cultures. Marshall Islands, Philippines, Tahiti, Marquesas, Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Japan, China, Hawaii, and Korea would be added into the list of presenters.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Marianas Visitors Authority Product Development manager Tatiana Babauta serves traditionally roasted pig to a tourist at the 2016 International Festival of Cultures at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan last Saturday.

FIRST DAY OF SERVICE

Volunteers clean up AMP on NPS' 100th anniversary

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Volunteers were scattered around the American Memorial Park last Saturday cleaning up damage done by Typhoon Soudelor and in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Brooke Nevitt, lead Ranger at American Memorial Park, said that the office of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) supported the cleanup, dubbed the First Day of Service, along with other partners.

"We're here today for a day of service. Yesterday (Aug. 26, 2016) was the Park Service's 100th birthday, so we're here to celebrate that, the National Park Service centennial. We are also here with the support of Congressman Kilili's office, as well as of the Red Cross and the PSS Americorps, CARE (Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts), and many other are participating to volunteer and clean up the park," shared an enthusiastic Nevitt.

American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch, shared the history of the National Park Service.

"It was established by Woodrow Wilson in 1916 so there has been a hundred years of historical conservation throughout the nation and here in the Commonwealth. When the covenant was signed with the U.S. to establish the CNMI, they designated this area as a place to reserve not only to remember those who fought and served in World War II and died, but also to create a place of natural beauty where people can and recreate so today on the 100th anniversary the Red Cross and several of our partners and people of the community are coming out and helping clean up the park," said Hirsch.

Hirsch also said that a large scheduled cleanup consisting of the various volunteer groups of the CNMI is possible, specifically saying that this would not be a weekly cleanup, but more of a quarterly cleanup.

"Once we see how this works and get some feedback from the [National] Park Service and to whether they felt it was a success. As you can see we had an excellent turn out this morning, but maybe we'll do this on a quarterly basis, or something like that," said Hirsch

The cleanup volunteers consisted of Red Cross, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and many more just to name a few.

Manglona: Jurors don't need expert's help to understand tourists' driving behavior

Commonwealth jurors do not need expert assistance to understand how tourists drive, according to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Manglona made such ruling yesterday in reconsidering her previous decision that denied the U.S. government's motion to exclude defendant Zhaopeng Chen's proposed expert witness testimony of former lawmaker/police officer Christopher Leon Guerrero about alleged erratic behavior of Chen's two Chinese co-defendants.

Manglona now grants in part the U.S. government's motion to exclude Leon Guerrero as expert witness.

The judge said she has reconsidered her decision after receiving the U.S. government's reply.

The indictment charged Chen, Xi Huang, and Shicheng Cai with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine over the shipment of 4.9 lbs of "ice" worth $850,000 in 2015.

Chen's jury trial will commence today, Tuesday.

Huang and Cai both pleaded guilty. Huang was recently slapped with 188 months or 15 years and eight months of imprisonment. Cai has yet to be sentenced.

Last Wednesday, Manglona denied without prejudice the U.S. government's motion to exclude. The judge said the U.S. government may renew the motion at an appropriate time in the course of Chen's trial.

Manglona said Chen's expert, Leon Guerrero, would be a rebuttal witness, and the court has yet to determine whether the U.S. government's witness will be permitted to give expert testimony.

The judge said if the U.S. government's witness is permitted to so testify, the court will be inclined to allow the defense a rebuttal expert.

The U.S. government informed the court and Chen that it would substitute out Drug Enforcement Administration agent Kirk Johns' testimony for that of case agent Ray Renguul.

In her reconsidering order yesterday, Manglona said law enforcement officers may give expert testimony as to driving behavior that fits "the modus operandi of persons conducting surveillance while transporting drugs."

Manglona said if the U.S. government shows that its proposed expert witness, Renguul, is qualified to give such testimony and that the testimony will assist the trier of fact, this expert testimony will be allowed.

Chen, through counsel David Banes, has notified the U.S. government that it intends to call Leon Guerrero to give an alternative explanation for co-conspirators' driving behavior as drivers from the People's Republic of China, including offering videos of Chinese tourists driving in Saipan.

Manglona said such testimony would not be proper expert rebuttal on counter-surveillance but would be direct testimony about how Chinese tourists drive.

Manglona said as the proponent of expert testimony, Chen has not met his "burden of proving the factual prerequisites necessary to the admissibility of expert testimony by a preponderance of the evidence."

The judge said if Renguul gives expert testimony on counter-surveillance, Chen may make an offer of proof if he still wishes to call Leon Guerrero to give true rebuttal testimony that co-conspirators' driving behavior was not consistent with counter-surveillance methods. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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‘Schools need to be more cautious in spending’

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI State Board of Education member Marylou S. Ada is asking school principals and administrators to become cautious in spending their annual budget. She is advising that all schools should make an annual plan on the things they would need for the entire school year.

Ada said that she was disappointed to see that some schools spend the money in buying non-essential things so they could zero out the fund that was given to them. “When I was BOE chair a few years ago, I was so disappointed on things that I’m seeing on their [purchase orders].”

“These are last-minute things that they are buying so they could spend all of their money. Don’t they plan in the beginning on what are the things they wanted to buy for the school year?.” added Ada, who did not elaborate on what are some of the items.

She said that these are not the usual things that you would buy for the schools. “It is not really something that would benefit the students or the school. These are things like really something that is out of the ordinary.”

“Like it won’t last long. It is not for long-term use. They just want to spend and zero out their budget. Sometimes they don’t plan,” Ada added.

She said that for example the school is allocated $40,000 and by the end of the year they still have $30,000 and they would spend it buying non-important things just to have a zero amount or else the remaining money would be taken away from them.

“It could have gone to fixing classrooms, renovating the bathrooms, fixing their WiFi, or anything that would improve the school and benefit the students. But when I see this entire PO, because they wanted to spend all of their money by the end of the fiscal year. It really makes me sad that something that would need,” said Ada.

Budget meeting

PSS human resources director Cindy Deleon Guerrero, in last week’s Senate budget hearing, said that they always meet and sit down with all the school principals and administrators, and program managers to go through their budget needs.

“When preparing the budget, we call on the principals and program managers. Sit down with them and we go through their staffing patterns and give them the opportunity to tell us what their schools need so that we can include it on the budget request,” said Deleon Guerrero.

“It goes through a series of planning events, not only once. The budget we submit and propose is always the collaboration and work of all administrators and school principals. If there is a cut, it is between what we requested and what we received. We request what we need, what the principals ask for, what we get is a different story.”

CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared this coming September as Cultural Heritage Month at the Carolinian Utt last Sunday. Following the proclamation, the chief executive thanked Best Sunshine International, Ltd.’s Corporate Social Responsibility department for partnering with the celebration headed by the steering committee chaired by Cinta Kaipat. In this photo, Torres poses with Kaipat, committee media chair Nola Hix, press secretary-on leave Ivan Blanco, and some of the BSI-CSR team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TORRES

From Page 1

1, 2016. The bill, by a vote of 17-2, passed the House with no additional amendments last Thursday and sent to the Senate for further review.

Torres said his administration is waiting for the final review of the Senate but is asking them to speed up the process. “We’re just waiting for them [Legislature]. We respect the process that it needs to go through the House and the Senate.”

“But I wanted to ask them to speed up the process, so we could move forward and give the agencies the funding that they need. Because I need to have ample time to review and sign the bill before Sept. 30,” Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in last Sunday’s proclamation signing declaring September as Cultural Heritage month at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan.

He added that his administration, which is dedicated in promoting and preserving the island’s culture, put in an additional $200,000 for the Cultural Affairs Office. “To increase the budget in teaching our language and culture to our kids.”

“The administration is dedicated in promoting and preserving our culture. As our culture is our identity, a part of our islands, and it is one of the things that attracts tourists,” said Torres. “Whether in navigation, through farming, raising livestock, or fishing.”

He said this is different from the CNMI State Public School System’s bilingual program. “PSS is a separate entity and it teaches the Chamorro and Carolinian languages in schools. This is for extra curricular activities outside the schools and promotion of different activities throughout the year.”

Larger slice of the pie

The CNMI State Public School System is one agency that is expecting to get a bigger share of the administration’s allotments so it could answer the needs of the schools and the more than 10,000 students spread out in the three islands. Lack of teaching personnel is PSS’ main concern right now.

CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero and acting education commissioner Yvonne R. Pangelinan has asked the Senate, during last week’s budget hearing, to give them their proposed budget of $39.5 million. Torres is proposing $37.7 million for PSS’ budget, while the House appropriated $36.2 million.

Guerrero, in public comments made in last week’s House session, said they are thankful for any amount the Legislature would give even though it is less than what they’ve asked for. “If there are additional funds, aside from the close to $40 million that we need, I request that you would consider the needs of PSS and the schools.”

“There’s not enough money to buy toilet papers and other things but we’re trying to address the needs of the schools. We always figure out which school is willing to give up their share to other schools,” added Guerrero.

“There is only one PSS and we have to deal with all schools on the three islands and also managing the early head start program. We need all the additional funds that we can get, so if there is any penny left, give it to PSS. We believe the students deserve every penny that you are willing to give up,” Guerrero said.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is another agency looking for more funding. DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter, whose agency has nine divisions that provides various services to the community, has requested over $2.3 million but will be getting $2.5 million based on the Legislature’s allotment. Torres’ proposed budget for DCCA is $2.4 million.

Hunter said the governor made a “pretty good submission” and it would help their department address minor things regarding personnel and salaries. “We will be in much better shape financially this fiscal year, rather than last year.”

“It was higher than the governor’s proposed budget and slightly higher than what we submitted. When we look at each division and program, we look into what they need and what it is in the budget,” said Hunter.

“It would help us with our personnel training, equipment, programs, and other things that kind of have been left out,” he added.

LARSON

From Page 1

Department of Public Lands secretary John DelRosario are the product of reasonable mistake.

Tenorio discussed the release of funds to Luta Mermaid LLC in Larson’s answer and defenses to DelRosario’s lawsuit. Tenorio said Larson is not a lawyer and cannot be expected to navigate through sometimes conflicting and complex laws as if she had extensive legal training.

Tenorio said Larson had authorized payment of public funds through resolution before pursuant to CNMI Public Laws 11-79 and 12-64, and believed that the monies transferred to Luta Mermaid LLC were for a public purpose.

DelRosario filed last May a taxpayer’s lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog and Larson over the alleged adoption of a Rota Legislative Delegation resolution without public notice that purportedly authorized payment of $400,000 to Luta Mermaid LLC, a private company owned by Hocog’s relatives.

DelRosario, through counsel Jennifer Dockter, is suing Hocog and Larson for breach of fiduciary duties, and expenditure of public funds for an improper purpose. In addition, Hocog is sued for violation of the Open Government Act.

Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-03 was approved “to authorize the Department of Finance to pay for fuel, lubrication, and other costs necessary for the maiden voyage of the vessel from Louisiana to its new home port in Rota, and to provide for the personnel and operational costs of the Office of the Mayor of Rota.”

DelRosario requested the Superior Court to issue a judgment declaring, among other things, that Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-3 void ab initio (from the beginning), and all acts taken in furtherance of such resolution null and void.

In Larson’s defenses to the lawsuit, Tenorio said at no time did Larson knowingly and deliberately violate her fiduciary duties and breach the public trust.

“The monies transferred to Luta Mermaid LLC were for a public purpose,” Tenorio pointed out.

She cited that it is well documented that the island of Rota has suffered severe supply shortages in the past due to the inability of cargo ships to dock at Rota when the weather was bad.

The deputy AG said the purpose of transferring the subject funds was to pay for bringing the ship, Luta Mermaid, to the CNMI so the ship could transport necessary provisions and supplies to Rota even during inclement weather.

Tenorio said the boat will also provide shipping for agricultural products and other goods produced on Rota to Guam and other islands and thereby give the Rota economy a badly needed boost.

DHS

From Page 1

agency discretion by law.

Girdharry said the reasonable methodology and criteria that DHS uses to administer the CW-1 visa cap—aimed at achieving the statutory goals of reducing the number of CW-1 workers annually to zero by Dec. 31, 2019, and preventing any adverse effect on the wages and working conditions of domestic workers—is an action that is wholly “committed to agency discretion by law.”

The lawyer said plaintiffs’ allegations that DHS’ administration of the CW-1 visa cap is arbitrary or capricious fails to state a claim for which the court can provide them with any relief.

Contrary to plaintiffs’ allegations, Girdharry pointed out that DHS has established a regulatory scheme to administer the CW-1 transitional worker program that has been in place since 2011.

Girdharry said the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services lawfully rejected CUC’s CW-1 petitions after the cap was reached in accordance with agency rules and procedures.

Girdharry said to the extent plaintiffs allege that DHS’ rejection of their petitions violated their due process rights, such a claim utterly fails because it is well established that there is no constitutionally-protected interest in a visa petition that may permit a foreign national admission into the United States.

CUC and its 13 CW-1 workers, through counsel James Sirok, are suing Johnson and others for not acting on their CW-1 permit renewals.

Aside from Johnson, plaintiffs are also suing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah R. Saldana and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez.

Plaintiffs’ counsel Sirok alleged that the failure of USCIS to make a determination on the CW renewal petitions violates the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sirok alleged that plaintiffs have suffered a legal wrong because of the conduct of defendants DHS and USCIS in setting the annual CW-1 caps for fiscal years 2013 through 2016.

Sirok said CUC will be adversely affected by the loss of these CW-1 workers in its ability to maintain and operate its power generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sirok asked the court to declare that the failure of USCIS to render a determination on the CW-1 renewal petitions for the 13 workers was unlawful, contrary to law, and in violation of plaintiffs’ constitutional rights.

CUC employs over 300 workers, including 42 nonresident workers.

Sirok said the foreign workers’ workforce within CUC is an essential and necessary work force needed for the utility to provide power, water, and wastewater utility services to the CNMI.

September proclaimed Cultural Heritage Month

ERWIN ENCINARES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog sign the proclamation declaring the start of the Cultural Heritage Month this coming September at the Carolinian Utt last Sunday. Also in photo is Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong applauding with the audience.

ERWIN ENCINARES

From left, Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, Cinta Kaipat, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, and Gov. Ralph Torres enjoy a song after the proclamation ceremony at the Carolinian Utt last Sunday.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The celebration of Cultural Heritage Month in the CNMI this coming September officially kicked off when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog signed the proclamation at the Carolinian Utt last Sunday, Aug. 28.

September is the month for the annual Cultural Heritage Month, the official recognition and celebration of Chamorro and Carolinian roots.

Carolinian Affairs executive assistant John I. Tagabuel said Cultural Heritage Month is the time to show the world what makes the CNMI special.

"Basically, when we cater to tourists, we want to make sure that we are showing our tradition and culture because it shows what kind of people we are and where we came from," he said.

The celebrations also highlight the various cultural identities of the CNMI. "The theme of celebration is celebrating who we are. We really want to promote that aspect of celebrating who we are as a Chamorro and as a Carolinian," said Tagabuel.

The activities of the Cultural Heritage Month include a bonfire/story telling night on Sept. 2, a speech competition and traditional fashion show on Sept. 9, the Island Cuisine Night on Sept. 16, the Aghurubw Day Celebration on Sept. 17, the 13 Fishermen 30th Memorial Celebration on Sept. 23, the Island Family Fun Day on Sept. 24, the RMS Sunset Open Mic Presentation on Sept. 25, a cultural symposium on Sept. 28 and 29, and the Uumw Chaha Night on Sept. 30.

Also worth noting is that for every Saturday of September, the International Festival of Cultures would be open at Paseo de Marianas Garapan.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ARIEL R. DUMAPIT Petitioner	)	FCD-DI-CA NO. 16-0389
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
BETTY JO STEURMANN – DUMAPIT Respondent,	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504373 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-16-2339: Architect and Engineering Services

Closing Date: **September 5, 2016** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING FACILITIES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-017-16

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting proposals for the Management and Operation of the Saipan International Airport Parking Facilities. The contractor selected will manage the facility for a period of five (5) years with the option to extend the contract annually, up to a maximum of three (3) years at CPA's sole discretion.

The Proposal Package will be available for pick up at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport beginning August 05, 2016.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Friday, August 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Saipan International Airport Terminal Departure Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All proposers are requested to attend.

Questions and/or clarifications shall be addressed during the pre-proposal conference. However, CPA will extend this opportunity to August 22, 2016 only by written request to the attention of the Executive Director by emailing to: cpa.receptionist@pticom.com; with copy to: atudela@cpa.gov.mp. No questions will be entertained after this date.

All proposals must be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Management and Operations of the Saipan International Airport Parking Facilities, CPA-RFP-017-16".
One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, August 30, 2016, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

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CPA Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

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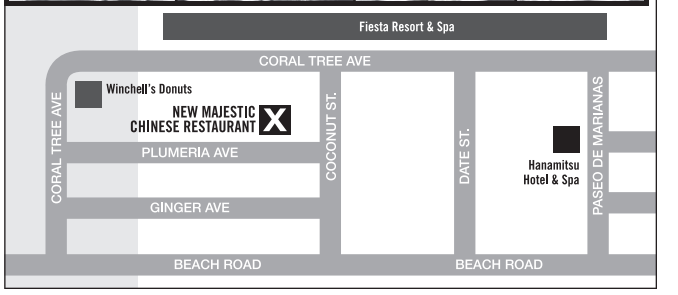

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a special board meeting on **Thursday, September 1, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting
- D. Adoption of Agenda
- E. Correspondence

II. Executive Session**
- A. Discussion of the Position of Executive Director

III. Public Comments ***

IV. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
*** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

BOE: No plans in hiring commissioner off-island

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero said the Public School System commissioner must know all the issues and needs of all public schools in the Commonwealth and that's why they are lukewarm to the idea of having off-island applicants.

Guerrero said the BOE has extended the appointment of PSS acting commissioner Yvonne R. Pangelinan as they finalize the requirements within the week and a job vacancy announcement will be put out. Former commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan decided to retire after eight years.

"We are not quite there yet. First we need to review the requirements and see if it is still aligned with our strategic priorities. The JVA also needs to be aligned with the [CNMI] Constitution. We can't circumvent it," said Guerrero during a break in last Thursday's BOE board meeting at the Office of Pupil Transportation conference room in Lower Base.

"That is something to look into. The PSS commissioner needs to know the dynamics of working with the Legislature. If [he or she] doesn't know, then that would complicate things. Who will defend the budget?" said Guerrero when asked if off-island applicants are welcome.

Guerrero added that an off-island commissioner might not fully understand the role that is specifically stated in the CNMI Constitution.

"Not only about teaching but every aspect. Like the budget, we need to have someone who knows how to work with the Legislature and would defend it. That person has to go to and represent the PSS in the Legislature," said Guerrero.

He said the board must need to finalize all requirements and revise it so it is aligned on what the CNMI Constitution says about the PSS commissioner post before releasing the JVA that will be announced for one month.

"We need to review and fine-tune it a little bit because we have the same job description from 20 years ago and we need to upgrade it so it will be more aligned with our strategic priorities," said Guerrero.

Guerrero said that aside from teaching experience the education commissioner must have administrative and leadership skills. He added that there are a lot of qualified people at the PSS central office for the commissioner's post.

"Most of the people at the central office have teaching experience. They have a master's in education degrees. How about a doctorate? That is something to look at. Having a doctorate degree doesn't mean that you know more than some who has a master's degree. It doesn't mean that you are an expert in everything."

JON PEREZ

From left, CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero, legal counsel Adam Hardwicke, BOE board member Marylou Ada, CNMI State Public School System finance and budget director Derek Sasamoto, and PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh in last week's board meeting at the Office of Pupil Transportation in Lower Base.

Joeten pledges $5K to Green Gala

An ardent supporter of Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's work, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises has shown its backing once again for conserving the islands' natural resources through its $5,000 contribution to MINA. The donation was made as part of MINA's annual fundraising event, the Green Gala, which will be held on Friday, Sept. 2, 2016.

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has worked to implement various conservation projects, including the Plastic Bag Challenge, the Schools for Environmental Conservation workshops, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Program, the Adopt-A-Bin Project, and Managaha Pride Campaign.

"We are extremely thankful for Joeten's contribution to this year's Green Gala," said interim director Becky Furey.

"Joeten has consistently shown its commitment to ensuring that work to sustain our natural environment continues. Our collaboration on the successful Choose to Reuse Campaign is an example of the type of work that can be accomplished with the commitment we have been seeing from our corporate partners."

According to Bo Palacios, Joeten Business Development manager, "The Choose to Reuse Campaign focused on eliminating plastic waste in the CNMI. Our partnership with MINA to implement Taya Plastic Tuesdays saved over half a million bags through the use of reusable bags, boxes, and other alternatives. Our records have shown that over 30,000 reusable bags have been brought in since our partnership began."

In order to continue its efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's environment and biodiversity, MINA is seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala event. The organization is supported by project grants and from generous contributions from local businesses and community members.

In addition to lively entertainment, dinner, and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening to celebrate over 10 years of working with island communities for conservation.

As the last Green Gala was sold out, organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early. Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer board members.

To become a sponsor of the Green Gala, please contact Becky Furey at 233-REEF (7333), or email minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Gold's Gym congratulates 21st Police Cycle graduates

The 21st Police Cycle cadets have trained hard and have undoubtedly made many sacrifices throughout their training. Gold's Gym Saipan congratulates and recognizes the cadets for their hard work and dedication. They have dedicated themselves both physically and mentally.

Tyce Mister, general manager, stated "Gold's Gym is rewarding the cadets for their perseverance with a complimentary one-week gym membership. We hope to remain important partners with the cadets in maintaining both exceptional fitness and mental levels. We want to assist these hard working individuals to be the best they can be for themselves, their families, and for our community." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Police Officer John "JJ" Cabrera, second left, receives gym passes from Gold's Gym Saipan general manager Tyce Mister.

Free workshop on world geography through coins at JKPL

Local youths above 5 years old are invited to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe this Saturday, Sept. 3, from 10am to 11:30am in the Pacific Room.

Come and learn the many countries of origin for foreign coins that were brought to Saipan. Each youth will be assigned actual foreign coins for them to find out what country it came from. Each coin will then be glued onto a large world map for permanent display at the public library. Over 50 coins will be displayed on the map when finished as the community's coin collection for all to see.

The map and education instruction will be provided by the Mariana Stamp and Coin Club. Interesting foreign coins are provided by the American Red Cross' Saipan local office. These coins were donated to the American Red Cross into their many coin donation boxes located in many locations such as the Joeten Stores.

U.S. coins are donated in the American Red Cross and support their many local activities. Sometimes people put foreign coins into these donation boxes. These foreign coins can be used to teach local youths about world geography. The American Red Cross is grateful for any and all donations.

The Mariana Stamp and Coin Club is pleased to partner with the American Red Cross to increase awareness of world geography and the fun of coin collecting with our local youths.

For any questions, please call the library (670)-235-7322 or Mariana Stamp and Coin Club (670) 484-8971. ***(PR)***

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Bronze, STK#U16-073R
WAS $26,799*
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Beach Road Pathway hit by vandals

The newly re-lit Beach Road Pathway was hit by vandals on Tuesday night, Aug. 23, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The MVA received a report Wednesday, Aug. 24, of damage to one of the lights across from the SASHA building near Quartermaster Road. The optical glass diffuser was found broken on the ground, the three parts of the light were missing: the LED corn-shaped light, light socket, and light socket base.

Vandals smashed one of the lights along the Beach Road Pathway on the evening of Aug. 23, 2016. The pathway is in the process of being completely re-lit by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

An optical light diffuser is believed to have been intentionally smashed along the Beach Road Pathway on the evening of Aug. 23, 2016.

A light, light socket, and light socket base are missing following the smashing of one of the lights along the Beach Road Pathway on the evening of Aug. 23, 2016. Individuals with information that may help are urged to call the authorities.

"We cannot express deeply enough how disturbing this is for the MVA. The damage done to the pathway lighting only delays the completion of this much anticipated destination enhancement project," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We urge our law enforcement partners to do their proper investigations and vehemently seek out those responsible for this crime. Crimes that go unpunished ultimately encourage criminals to continue their misdeeds, to the detriment of our entire society. This has to stop now."

An official police report is still pending. Individuals with information that may help authorities are urged to contact the Department of Public Safety or Crimestoppers at 234-7272.

In June 2016 the MVA re-lit the Beach Road Pathway after several years of it being dark at night. Copper wire thieves have successfully targeted the pathway several times, including during the MVA's current rehabilitation.

"The last copper wire theft that took place at the pthway was unacceptable," said Concepcion. "To date, we have no information regarding any arrests made for that theft. We hope law enforcement agencies are still working on this case as no one has been made to answer for that crime, yet."

The MVA expects to spend a total of $965,591.99 to re-light the entire pathway before the holiday season. ***(PR)***

2016 Business and Finance Conference set for Sept. 15-16

The 2016 Business and Finance Conference will be held on Sept. 15-16, 2016 at the Saipan World Resort, Royal Taga A. The event is hosted by Bank of Guam, Commonwealth Development Authority, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Both days will consist of in depth panel discussions and presentations showcasing off-island and local experts.

The purpose of the symposium is to showcase the lenders in the CNMI, educate business owners as to their financial resources is available to them, and give opportunity for our lenders to express opinions on the restrictions and limiting factors for lending in the CNMI.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016, the event will be opened with remarks by Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP). The keynote speaker is Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. Topics will include global economic perspective and how it affects the CNMI, what banks and financial companies need in order to provide more lending opportunities in the CNMI, what can be done to stimulate business financing in the CNMI, financial conditions in business, breaking down barriers from the Federal point of view, and innovating financial techniques utilizing local and federal program.

The event will continue on Friday, Sept. 16, featuring more experts from the financial sectors. Topics will include U.S. federal government lending programs: specific involvement and services in the CNMI, export opportunities for the CNMI, CNMI Business, CNMI entrepreneurship, and Tripartite Agreement for Financing.

All CNMI business owners, entrepreneurs, aspiring business-owners, and those interested in learning more about the lending opportunities available to the CNMI should attend this conference.

A special thank you is extended to the event's generous event sponsors: United Airlines, Pacific Pancakes, LLC, McDonalds Saipan, Deloitte & Touche LLP, and luncheon sponsors Bank of Guam.

The Chamber would also like to recognize the volunteer speakers for donating their time to educate our community through this service.

This event is free. Morning refreshments and lunch are provided. Please join this learning opportunity. Space is limited to the first 100 registered guests. Should you have any questions or if would like to attend this event, please call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 30, 2000

Proposal seeks to establish protected areas in Tinian

Some areas on Tinian will be declared protected region for wildlife conservation under a plan pending with the local legislative delegation in an effort to safeguard resources and endangered species found on the island. The proposed measure offered by Rep. Norman S. Palacios will also impose fines of between $100 to $1,000 for violations within the region which will be established within the Suicide Cliff and extending to Rion Point in the island municipality. Conservation of such wildlife as coconut crabs, fruits bats and various species of birds, is important not only to Tinian residents and future generation, but also to the local economy as it tries to develop eco-tourism, according to officials. To implement the plan, stringent regulations will be carried out by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

House cautioned against housing allowance

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has asked the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations not to endorse a proposed measure eliminating the housing allowance for off-island hires in fear that it will adversely affect the delivery of basic services. In a letter to Rep. Dino Jones, chair of the committee, the governor said members of the committee should seriously study the consequences of such proposal. "Until the Commonwealth educates and retains sufficient numbers of local citizens to fill the positions currently requiring outside recruitment, we must continue to (provide housing) to be able to attract and retain such employees from outside," Mr. Tenorio said.

August 30, 2004

Fuel shortage on Rota becoming acute

Due to rough seas, Mobil Marianas' oil tanker has not arrived to replenish Rota's fuel supply, prompting authorities to resort to rationing of two gallons per two days for private users. For the government, Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona said that fuel sale is on a "case by case basis" so as not to hamper typhoon recovery efforts. Manglona said the fuel supply on Rota right now would only last for two to three days. "There is no ample supply of fuel so I declared a local emergency here asking people to cooperate in the rationing," he said. Manglona said Mobil's shipment is expected to arrive this week. If this does not work out, he said he would be forced to ask for the military's help to airlift fuel to the island.

Hardware stores hiked prices

The Attorney General's Office discovered that certain businesses on Saipan increased the prices of their commodities soon after the onslaught of Supertyphoon Chaba last week. CNMI consumer counsel Brian Caldwell said at least two hardware stores on the island improperly hiked their prices of construction supplies after the supertyphoon damaged hundreds of houses on the island. These are besides the Tinian hardware store earlier reported to have also engaged in price gouging, Caldwell said. Acting on consumers' complaints, the Attorney General's Investigative Unit dispatched personnel to verify the cases of price gouging. The AGO directed investigators to serve cease and desist notices to the companies for them to roll back prices of construction supplies.

August 30, 2005

Commercial fishing firm to locate to NMI

A Seattle-based commercial fishing company has secured needed permits to begin long-line fishing activity in the CNMI. Commerce economic development officer Glen Manglona said yesterday that the operator, Lady Kimberly, is applying for a loan guarantee from the Commonwealth Development Authority. "It has secured all permitting requirements. We are working with CDA on the guarantee," said Manglona. He said Lady Kimberly representatives led by Courtney Klichty will be arriving on Saipan next month to meet with CDA officials. Manglona said the company would be selling its products to the U.S. mainland and Japan.

Shell gas prices breach $3-a-gallon mark

The continued buoyancy of oil prices in the world market prompted Shell Marianas Inc. yesterday to increase its pump prices on Saipan by up to 6 cents a gallon—its third price hike this month and the 10th one this year. All gallon prices have now surpassed the $3-mark. Shell Marianas president Phil Stalker attributed the new round of price increases to the continuing rise in the global prices of oil. "Oil products in Singapore have continued to increase and trade at record levels, which requires us to adjust our prices again to maintain alignment with our supply cost," Stalker said. All Shell gas stations on Saipan adjusted gallon prices by 6 cents for regular and premium gasoline and 4 cents for diesel. Prices are now as high as $3.339 per gallon.

Statement on passing of former senator Ada

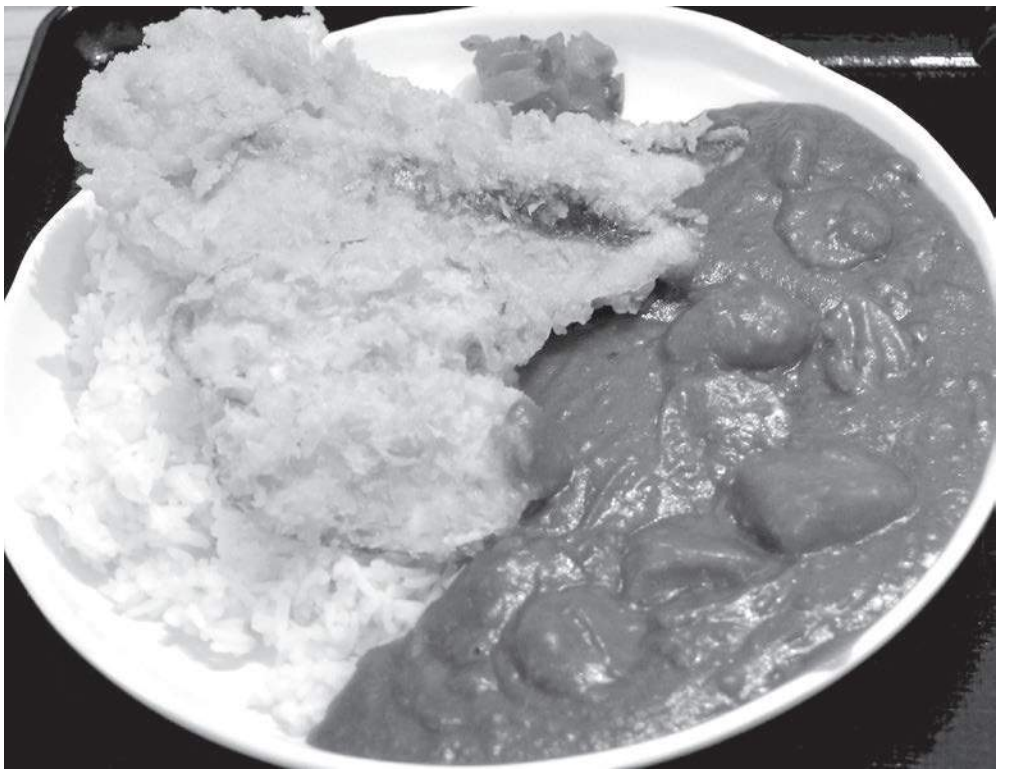
HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued yesterday the following statement on the passing of former senator Vicente "Ben" Diaz Ada.

"I join the people of Guam in mourning the loss of Guam businessman and former senator Vicente "Ben" Diaz Ada. Ben touched the lives of many people on Guam as a public servant in the Guam Legislature and as the owner of Ada's Funeral Home. His work ethic was unparalleled and evident in the day-to-day operation of the family business. Throughout the years Ben's compassion and generosity has assisted countless families during their most difficult times. In particular, I knew Ben to be a man deeply devoted to his faith and to the care of his family. I extend my sincere condolences to the entire Ada family on their loss. My thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. He will be deeply missed."***(PR)***

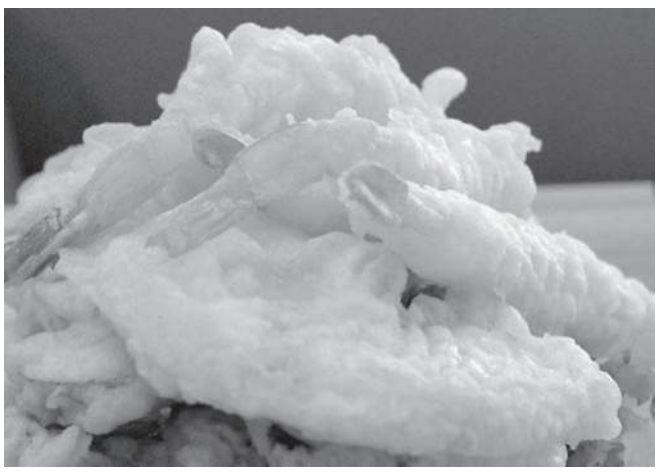
Ajisen Ramen Opening

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ and DONNA RIVERA

Ajisen Ramen's bowl of ramen is good for two people but also enough to satisfy one hungry customer. Ajisen Ramen opened last Wednesday. For reservations, call 233-0303 and 233-0304.



Salmon curry rice is a must for fish lovers.



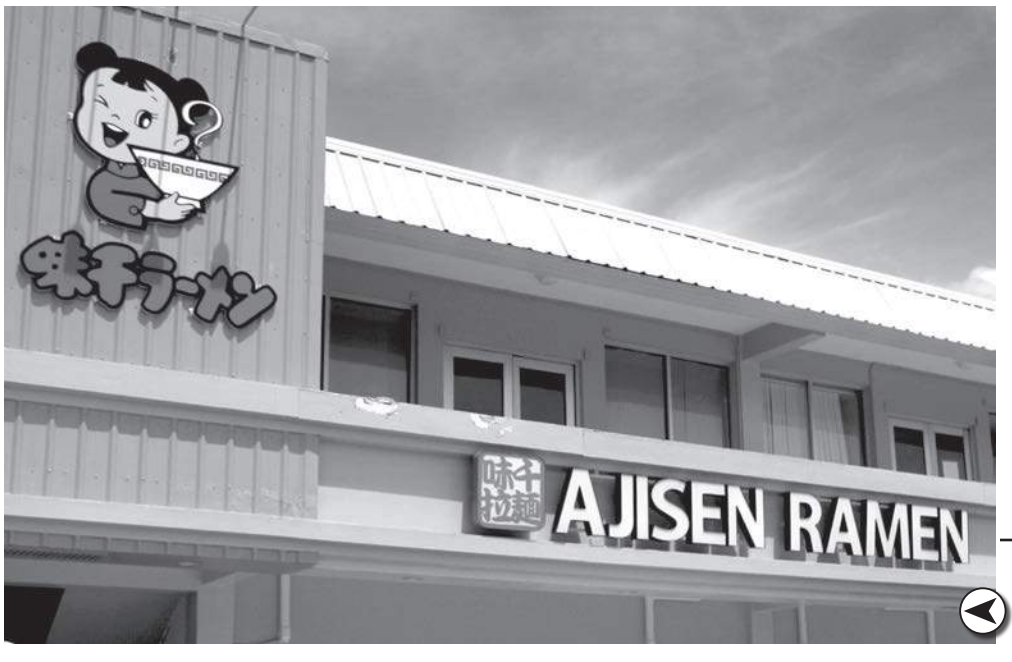
Mixed ebi and vegetable tempura.

Rows of ramen bowls is one striking feature of the noodle house.

Slurp your way to a hearty serving of shrimp siomai.

One can also order bento-style meals. Here's a chicken teriyaki bento.

Ramen is best eaten with chopsticks for that Japanese vibe.



Ajisen Ramen's façade with the company's logo that features a little girl named Chii-chan.

Japanese pan-fried dumplings or gyoza.

A bowl of ramen and steamed gyoza is a perfect combination.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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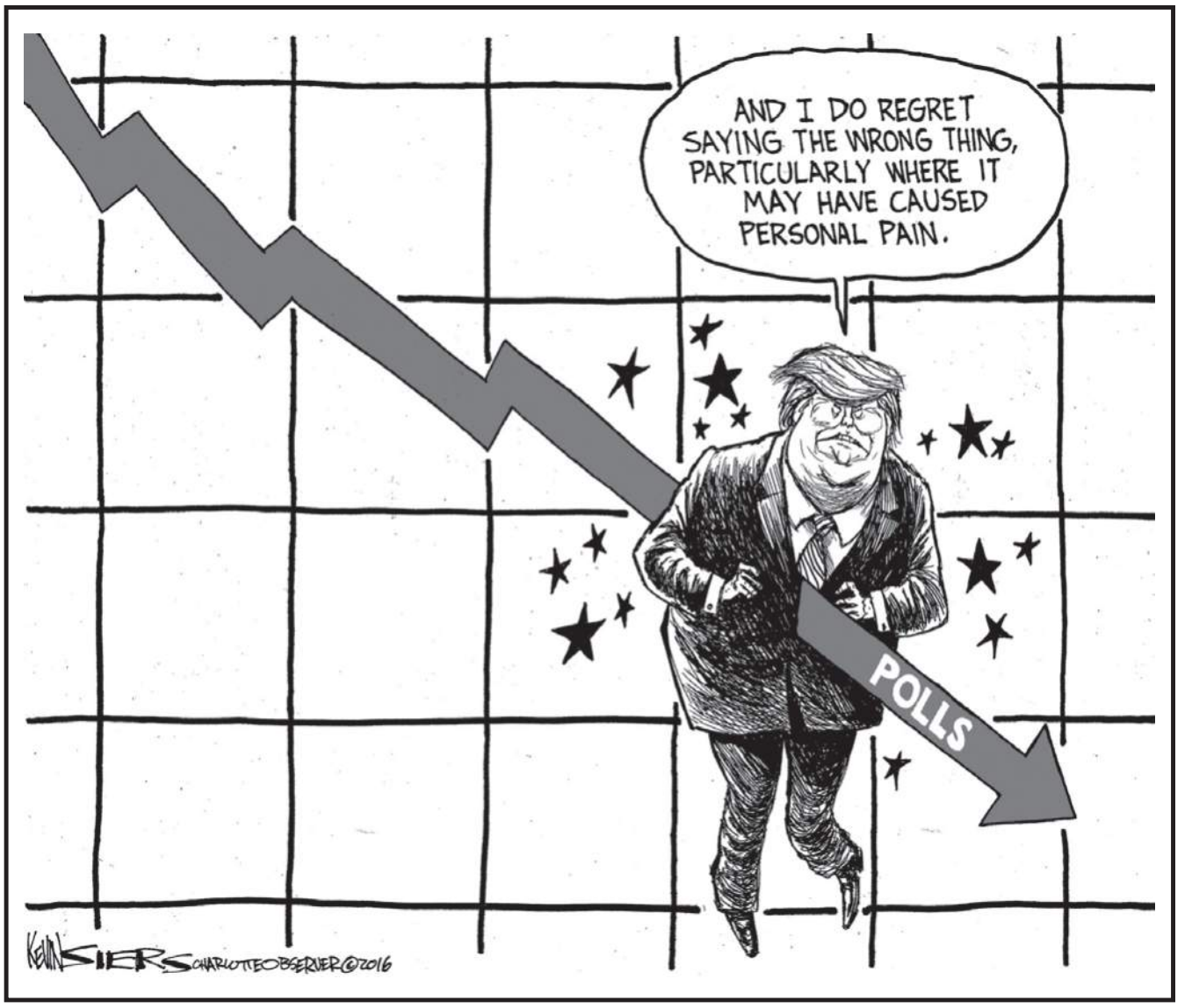
AND I DO REGRET SAYING THE WRONG THING, PARTICULARLY WHERE IT MAY HAVE CAUSED PERSONAL PAIN.
POLLS
KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ©2016

EDITORIAL

No bargain: Private prisons are a bad deal for the feds

It's no secret that private prisons are more poorly run and more dangerous than government-run correctional facilities. This month, the federal government acknowledged that its two-decade experiment with private prisons has run its course. Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates instructed the Bureau of Prisons to begin reducing the use of private prisons to house federal prisoners.

"They simply do not provide the same level of correctional services, programs and resources," Yates wrote. "They do not save substantially on costs" and "do not maintain the same level of safety and security." In other words, the rationale for using private prisons falls apart once outcomes compared to government prisons are taken into consideration. Phasing out the use of these expensive, inferior, violent institutions that have higher rates of assaults on guards and prisoners makes sense.

The federal government has contracts with 13 privately run prisons to house 22,600 federal prisoners. Yates instructed the bureau to allow these contracts to lapse. This was not well received in the for-profit world of private prisons. The government's decision sent stocks of the companies tumbling because the government is such a big client. It pays the bills whether the service is subpar or not.

The federal government's partnership has allowed private prisons to reap financial benefits for providing inferior services. The early promise that private prisons would be the key to dealing with burgeoning prisoner populations in general turned out to be illusory. Today, the overall federal prisoner population spread out between the private-run prisons and the government-run prisons is a mere 195,000, reflecting a sharp decline in the population. This may be as good a time as any to get out of a bad relationship.

Even as the government is phasing out the use of private prisons for federal prisoners, it continues to do business with the same companies when it comes to the use of poorly run, crowded immigration detention centers.

Right now, there are 46 immigration detention centers housing 25,000 people. Many of the same shameful conditions that afflict private prisons are at play at immigration centers. A deputy attorney general may be writing a letter to immigration services similar to the one Yates wrote to the Bureau of Prisons in the not-too-distant future.

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Clinton shines a light on Trump's hatred, bigotry

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune*. Readers may email him at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com*

Hillary Clinton—Hillary Clinton, of all people!—has done the Republican Party a huge favor.

She has thrown the GOP a lifeline, given conservatives their last, best chance to save themselves from the ruinous blathering of Donald Trump.

It's like the Grinch sitting down to carve the roast beast for the Whos down in Whoville. Who would've thunk it?

Clinton reached a hand out Thursday by calmly delivering a speech in Nevada that called out Trump's litany of bigoted comments, his casual wink-and-a-nod relationships with racists and hate-mongers, his embrace of the bile-spewing internet trolls of the alt-right.

She left nothing to chance, citing specific examples, naming names, recounting stories from the alt-right website Breitbart, whose head man, Stephen Bannon, is now Trump's campaign CEO.

Clinton said of Bannon:

"To give you a flavor of his work, here are a few headlines they've published:

'Birth Control Makes Women Unattractive and Crazy.'

'Would You Rather Your Child Had Feminism or Cancer?'

'Gabby Giffords: The Gun Control Movement's Human Shield'

'Hoist It High And Proud: The Confederate Flag Proclaims A Glorious Heritage.'"

Clinton was not being hyperbolic in her speech. Her words were grounded in facts, like those headlines. It wasn't so much an attack as it was a demolition.

And it was exactly the kind of speech a Republican should have given during the primary, one that might have kept Trump from ever getting this far. Alas, the other candidates were too cowardly, all of them. Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz never stood up to Trump until it was too late, always fearful of the zealous fringe that supported him — the very same wackos Clinton took to task.

"This is what happens when you treat the National Enquirer like gospel," she said. "It's what happens when you listen to the radio host Alex Jones, who claims that 9/11 and the Oklahoma City bombings were inside jobs. He said the victims of the Sandy Hook massacre were child actors and no one was actually killed there. Trump didn't challenge those lies. He went on Jones' show and said: 'Your reputation is amazing. I will not let you down.'"

That's all true. And it's all just as despicable as it sounds.

The "alt-right" that Clinton talked about in her speech is a perverse collection of racist, misogynist, xenophobic white guys who resent America's diversity and think viciously harassing people online transforms them from pathetically aggrieved man-children into gods. (It doesn't.)

There are two schools of thought when it comes to handling internet trolls or radical fringe groups: Ignore them or shine a light on them for all to see.

Clinton took that latter path, and said: "This is a moment of reckoning for every Republican dismayed that the Party of Lincoln has become the Party of Trump. It's a moment of reckoning for all of us who love our country and believe that America is better than this."

She never said, "Vote for me." She simply called out Trump for what he is: a reckless bigot surrounded by equally reckless and equally bigoted wretches.

The Republican Party couldn't police itself well enough to stave off the rise of this reality television clown. Now Clinton — the hated Hillary Clinton, of all people — has given Republicans of good conscience a way out.

She did their dirty work for them. She gave them a reason — many reasons, in fact — to accept that Trump is unacceptable, and a chance to wash the stink of his campaign off before it clings to them forever. Not by voting for her, but by recognizing all that comes with voting for him.

Clinton's an unlikely savior for Republicans who care about the future of their party. But if a lifeline comes along when you're drowning, you shouldn't care too much about who's on the other end.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our Covenant, our doom?

Sounds a little harsh? You bet it is. It's a little short of grandstanding. But how else should we approach the root of the many problems we face today and as written, can potentially spell our doom in the future? With a handshake and a smile followed by endless mother, may I's? Maybe not. Why did our Covenant negotiators were so willing to hand off our sovereignty to the United States under the Covenant? But they did. Did we understand sovereignty then? Do we really understand sovereignty now? What does it mean? Does it impact us? Our livelihood and our ability and desire to govern ourselves? Sovereignty is a real serious issue. In my opinion, sovereignty is our soul. It is the soul of our government, the very foundation that holds the Chamorros, the Refaluasch, the Chamolinians together.

When we signed the Covenant, we gave away that binding foundation, the authority and the right to govern ourselves in a global sense. The U.N. Trusteeship Council back then said that we were a sovereign nation. And we were sovereign, and that creates sovereignty. We had sovereignty. We had had that sovereignty since the day we were born in East Asia, and as we left East Asia and crossed the Gobi, crossed China. and traversed the vast China Sea, plowed through the Philippines, and the Malay Peninsula, and braved another vast ocean crossing into the now Guam. Our mother island. Our sovereignty came with us. Sovereignty cannot be torn away from the bearer. And each one of us, wayfarers, is sovereign. Our ancestors in Guam, they got leaders. Sovereign and sovereignty. And they argue with the Americans about it. They, too, know about being sovereign and sovereignty. All the while, our sovereignty migrated with us. That's because sovereignty cannot be extricated or torn away from us. It's an integral part of us. It is the authority and right to govern ourselves and to usher our people into an organized group. If you remove that, you get chaos. Helter skelter. Doldrum.

When we handed over to the Americans our sovereignty, we destroyed our foundation, our very soul which came with us from East Asia, and we placed ourselves at the mercy of this multi-ethnic country America. Our sovereignty is sitting in Washington, not with us. We handed it away. Because the U.S. has our sovereignty, it can come and make demands. It took away our control of our own immigration as well as our submerged lands and wetlands and swamps. That's a nice way of putting it. The truth is, the United States took advantage of our unique relationship knowing very well that we were in our political infancy back then. We were to be brought up gradually into the 20th century so we don't destroy our culture and traditions. So say the American anthropologists. President Kennedy didn't agree. He sent in the Peace Corp, and the AESCP people to hasten our education. So now, we're not that naive. But for the record and those who do not know any better, we are not a U.S. territory, we're not under the U.S., we're not a possession of the U.S. Commonwealth is a kind of government, a political partnership, which we adopted from Puerto Rico, instead of the Cook Island.

We allowed the U.S. as our overseer. Not possessor. Do not let the term commonwealth fool you. It is a kind of political status that's amendable. Period. Despite the Covenant, the U.S., unilaterally, took over our immigration and submerged lands. Was it vengeance? Abramoff and DeLay? Objection to the garment labels? It didn't want us to live in comfort? Congressman George Miller, the friend of the garment factories in California? In 1976, we voted for a political union with the U.S., and with that we handed over our sovereignty on a silver platter. Why did we do that? Is it because we are humble people? In deep humility? "Con respeto, saina, na magof hao ya un atiende i bisita?" In Sablan v. Inos, 3 N.M.I 418 (1993) court case, it says in part, "they did not enter into the Covenant to become a territory or possession of the U.S." In reviewing the Covenant and discussing it with several ConCon delegates involved in the Covenant negotiation, our aspirations, and the U.S. purpose, should be kept in mind. Our aspirations? Grant-in-aid, citizenship, food stamp (NAP), etc. A welfare state. What about the U.S.? What exactly did it want? Our archipelago. The entire Marianas archipelago. U.S. defense forward echelon, a blocker for the West Coast against Asia and the Vladivostok-Kamchatka line?

Is ANZUS not adequate? Wabol v. Villacrusis, 1 N.M.I. 34 (1989), rev'd, 11 F.3d 124 (9th Cir. 1993) says, in part, "All acts of U.S. Congress and NMI Legislature relevant to Covenant should be interpreted consistent with Covenant, unless a contrary intention is clear." The U.S. actions on our immigration and submerged lands signify a contrary intention in that both actions had the potential to negatively impact our ability to self-govern. They knew that, but acted against our interest. Why did these happen and why has the U.S. ignored our cases and pleas? Not exactly what we had in mind when we had the plebiscite. Our problems did not just surface yesterday. Take a long hard look at cases brought before the 9th Circuit Court and you'll begin to understand that our political partner has, in fact, abused our relationship because of one word "sovereignty." This clause "under the sovereignty of the United States" has to be taken out. No excuses. We were sovereign once until some people, somehow, willingly surrendered it. The following excerpts on sovereignty highlight the issue: 1. The Covenant is a solemn agreement entered into between the U.S. and us. The U.S. and we, mutually, agreed on the level as two separate but equal sovereign entities. The Covenant governs the relationship between the parties. Sablan v. Inos, 2 N.M.I. 388 (1991). 2. The Covenant is a permanent, binding and solemn agreement entered into between two sovereign peoples, the U.S. and us. Wabol v. Villacrusis, 1 N.M.I. 34 (1989), rev'd, 11 F.3d 124 (9th Cir. 1993). Our issues, problems, and countless challenges now and in the foreseeable future, say we need change. The notion that by dumping dollar handouts for funded programs and projects, we shall remain minions of a political partner is an insult to us. The submerged lands. The U.S. took from the ocean floor up to what used to be our 200-mile economic zone. Manganese nodules, oil platforms, oil refinery up north, etc. And what about our wetlands? The hagoi, the sisomyan Susupe-Chalan Piao, the Sadog Tasi, the Sadog Mamis, the Sadog Dogas, the sisomyan Achugao, the sisomyan Puntan Flores, etc.? Who says these are under U.S. jurisdiction? And our designated endangered species—flora and fauna and marked off-limits. Who decided that? Sovereignty?

Finally, for now anyway, the issue of our immigration control. If we do not control our immigration, we'll continue to be under U.S. mercy, and hopes of economic survival and prosperity are diminished substantially. The visa-waiver policy for China, the ill-conceived and applied CW program and the restrictions under the E2C and H2 programs are not helping us whatsoever. They are choking our economy and our hopes and chances at successful self-government as mandated by the U.N. The CW program has been drawing down and capped with an end date of Dec. 31, 2019. This does not mean that when it ceases, all the CW workers must then exit. The program has a set duration of 12 months only for each and every applicant. Those who expire on Jan. 1, 2019 must exit within 10 days unless they convert to the more expensive and restrictive H2 program.

So our CW workers and many business operators, will go, barring anything big that could not be handled. By the way, do you know that we have many Chinese workers and since China is not included in the H2 program, they simply do not qualify and must leave as well? Bye, bye most small businesses. Bye, bye employees. Welcome to our version of hell on earth. So, 902 team, Governor Torres, 19th Legislature, and soon to be 20th Legislature, take heed. Seek solutions to our Covenant casualties and our economy. Do you understand what is economy and economics, for that matter? Galbraith? Keynes? Macro-economics and Micro-economics? We have many educated residents who majored in economics, and could easily unravel those questions. Now, let's restructure the legislature—unicameral—nine senators. Use the initiative process. Governor Torres, reorganize the administration. Cut or merge offices, divisions, departments performing similar or duplicate projects, goals and objectives, especially those who are not sure what's their departments' goals and objectives. Take SHEFA out of the Saipan Mayor's Office and merge it with the Commonwealth scholarship office. Reprogram the money of those offices you closed. Take back CUC, abolish the board, and put it under DPW as before. You save money. Move DPL back to re-merge with land management office in DLNR and abolish the board. Save money and duplicity. We do not have forever for a solution and neither do you. Neither do we have enough operating money. We owe more gazillions than what we have. Whooping liabilities and minute assets, and even a pinhead capital. We owe the world millions of money, and even if kingdom come, we'll still owe Lucifer (figure of speech) tera-billions. Re-arrange our source of money to save as much as possible so we could pay our zillions of debts. Roundup those economic majors, political science majors, finance experts, management experts, and see what you can get out of them. And include Red Foxx, Texas oil tycoon. He came to buy Saipan, and hire the High Commissioner as manager. We could have sold Saipan to him had not the High Commissioner objected to the proposal. But, you won't regret it if you do.

Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan

POEMS

Where the elite culture meet and eat

By JOSEPH CONNOLLY

TRUMP TOWER TAVERN NEW MENU

" So long as you have food in your mouth, you have solved all questions for the time being."—**Franz Kafka**

APPETIZERS: Acidophilous Apertif, wards off indigestion caused by Independents; Melania Melons Melange, slightly sour and sweet, a treat to eat, from Eastern Europe, grapes and melons hand picked by Mexicans; Sautéed 'Never Last" Plaice, fresh no need to, "knock the crap out of him" with red spots for Red staters, home fried Blue state taters, and Donald Dip. SALADS: Hillary's Tax Return Sieze Hers Caesars; the Wall St. Waldorf, and Fresh Green Party Platter are both off the menu; we recommend our Big League Bombast Salad. MAIN COURSE: Rabbit Ragout, uses hares caught digging holes in my golf courses; Trump Steak Out, raw, rare, and redundant; Any Fish In the Water, NRA will slaughter; Pence Pickerel or Pike, two for #2 Mike, you gotta like; Queens Baked Beans, like me classy and so gassy; DESSERTS: Giuliani Gelato, lo cal for my goombah pal; Crème Brutal, sprinkled with gold flakes for every rich S.O.B. who makes mistakes; Conservative Cream Cake, no gluten for non gluttons, pops shirt buttons; Chinese Fortune Cookies, wrapped in one of my Chinese ties, inside a surprise.

NEW SHORT ORDER MENU AT TRUMP TOWER CORNER CAFÉ

BIG LEAGUE BREAKFAST PLATTER, gobs of cholesterol choking bacon, sausage, eggs, hashish browns, 2 side orders of Texas Toast please; TRUMP'S TOWER OF PANCAKES served with corny Marla Maple syrup; PHONY BALONEY FRIED SANDWICH, white bread, white butter only; our GOLF CLUB SANDWICH has Manhattan meatballs and sauce smashed between Trump toast triangles; the new SUPREME COURT SALAD has eight ingredients, one missing, we like it that way for now; PENCE PARTY PIZZA, w/white flour, white upper crust, white American cheese, white mushrooms, white pepper, white oak wood fired, white from top to bottom; 'NO APOLOGY' SARCASTIC SOUP is kind of phony noodle minestrone; Our famous QUEENS BAKED BEANS are crassy and gassy just like Don; CROOKED WRINKLED HILLARY KRINKLE FRIES be boiled in hot oil; Please try our PENCE PENNY PINCHING PIE, made with white flour, white sugar, white butter, white salt, white grapes, white napkin, white teeth; We do our best to make fattening American food great again. No Apology; No Chinese, Mexican, or Middle Eastern food is served here. No Apology; Trump Big League Miss Steak Sauce on sale in in our deli. A 'real deal' believe me.

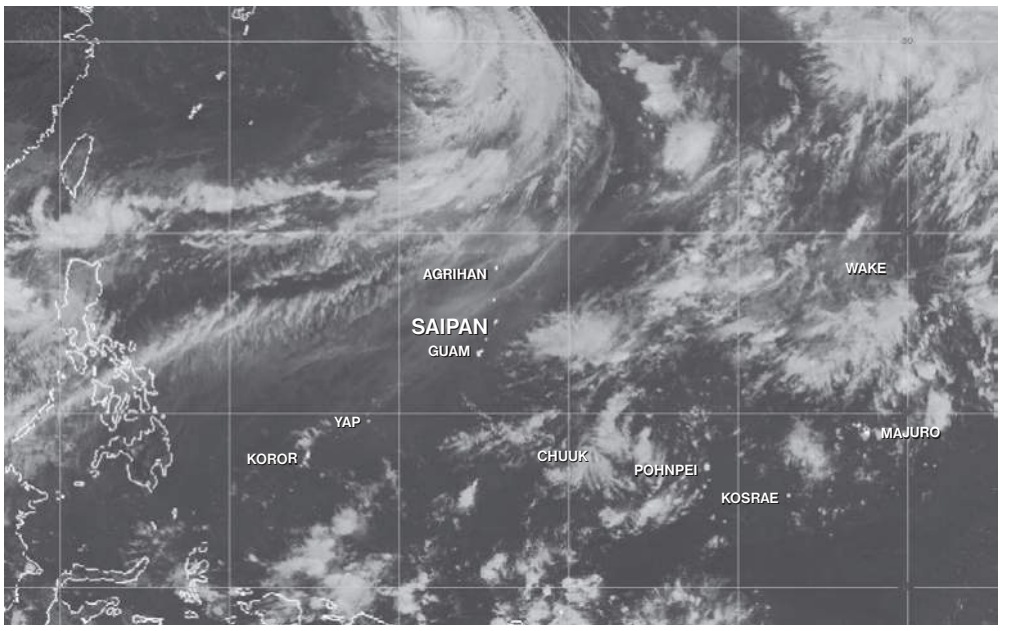
Joseph "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired CNMI PSS teacher who taught English on Tinian and Saipan from 1984 to 2014. He currently enjoys studying cosmology, Asian poetry, and life on Tinian.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. West winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:16 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The monsoon trough, which has been present north of 25 N the last week, is predicted to move southward and be just north of 20N by Wednesday. It will remain in that position through at least Saturday. A few circulations are expected to form on and move along the trough. This may increase the chances for clouds and showers the second half of the coming week. Have not added anything to the forecast yet as exact timing of events is not certain. Earlier model projections indicated an increase in wind speeds over the Marianas associated with the monsoon trough getting closer. These models now keep the winds a bit lighter.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Yap	Morning clouds	78 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	78 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	74 / 89 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	82 / 87 °F
Majuro	Afternoon clouds	83 / 88 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Sunny	47 / 60 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	64 / 88 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	78 / 88 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	72 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	54 / 78 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	66 / 90 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Melbourne	Mostly cloudy	54 / 61 °F
Miami	Flash floods	77 / 83 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	71 / 83 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	71 / 82 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	57 / 78 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	69 / 79 °F
Rome	Sunny	61 / 88 °F
Salem	Light showers	57 / 75 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	59 / 71 °F
Seoul	Mostly cloudy	64 / 73 °F
Tokyo	Heavy rain	76 / 83 °F
Washington, DC	Morning clouds	70 / 87 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
12:03 AM	LOW TIDE	1.01 Feet
5:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84 Feet
12:27 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.16 Feet
7:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	3:54 AM	4:54 PM
Wednesday	4:48 AM	5:40 PM
Thursday	5:41 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	7:05 PM
Saturday	7:21 AM	7:44 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Tukuitonga honored for outstanding contribution to Pacific health

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Pacific Community director general Dr. Colin Tukuitonga has been honored with a Life Award from the Pasifika Medical Association in recognition of his outstanding contribution and active commitment towards improving Pacific health services and training.

Tukuitonga is one of four recipients to receive the prestigious Life Award last Aug. 25 at the Pasifika Medical Association (PMA) conference in Auckland, New Zealand.

"I am deeply humbled by this acknowledgement from my peers. It has been my life-long ambition to make a valuable contribution towards improving health services in the Pacific and I am privileged to continue this work with the Pacific Community," Tukuitonga said.

Service Awards were also given to PMA members who have shown exceptional commitment to a health service organization or community.

In an official announcement released by the association, PMA Patron Dr. Joe Williams noted that "these are individuals who have shown passion and commitment to Pacific health service in New Zealand and the Pacific region. They have contributed excellent services at community level, and offer outstanding support and dedication within the health sector."

Tukuitonga, who is from Niue, served as the Pacific Community's Public Health Division director before his appointment as the international organization's director general in January 2014.

Prior to joining SPC, Tukuitonga served as chief executive officer of the New Zealand government's Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs; Associate Professor of Public Health and Head of Pacific and International Health at the University of Auckland; Director of Public Health with New Zealand's Ministry of Health; and Head of Surveillance and Prevention of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases at the World Health Organization in Switzerland.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pasifika Medical Association honored Pacific Community director general Dr. Colin Tukuitonga with a Life Award at the Pasifika Medical Association (PMA) conference in Auckland, New Zealand last Aug. 25.

Additionally, he was a commissioner for the World Health Organization global Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity from 2014 until its conclusion in early 2016.

The PMA is a network of Pacific health professionals, working collaboratively to strengthen Pacific health workforce capacity and capability and meet the health needs of Pacific people in the region.

The association is hosting its 20th Anniversary conference which concluded last Aug. 26. ***(PR)***

Submarine force opens new trainer in Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific (NSTCP) detachment (det) Guam held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the brand new Mobile Trainer (MT) 1000 submarine firefighting trainer on Polaris Point, Guam, Aug. 26.

The MT-1000 is the hottest firefighting trainer in the U.S. Navy and can run until temperatures reach 700 degrees Fahrenheit at five feet above the deck. It is designed to train service members in both basic firefighting and responsive team training to improve the casualty response of forward deployed units in the Western Pacific.

"The addition of the MT-1000 reinforces the Navy's commitment to ensure our submarine force is trained to the highest degree of readiness and that our crews are ready to handle emergency situations underway," said Lt. Cmdr. Jarrod Trant, NSTCP det Guam Officer in Charge. "The MT-1000 is the newest, hottest firefighter trainer in the U.S. Navy, putting our front line submariners through rigorous firefighting scenarios, which provides invaluable training."

One of the MT-1000's two fireplaces simulates a switchboard electrical fire, and the other is a bilge fire with a flashover capability that shoots propane across the ceiling, which rapidly raises the temperature inside. Training is routinely conducted around 200-300 degrees Fahrenheit, which can be reached within a couple of minutes at full burn. The MT-1000 can train two hose teams of four Sailors each simultaneously and is closely monitored by staff to ensure safety and compliance with proper firefighting techniques.

"This top-of-the-line trainer will benefit the submarine force and the fleet by developing team skills with real-life firefighting scenarios in a controlled environment," said Trant. "We want to ensure the teams have the tools they need to be successful should similar situations arise underway."

The MT-1000 is specially designed to improve firefighting capabilities aboard submarines with a side watertight door and topside hatch over a vertical ladder to simulate firefighting conditions and accesses on submarines. The trainer also has moveable metal panels to simulate different scenarios and increase the difficulty.

Capt. Michael Martin, NSTCP Commanding Officer, was present for the ceremony and is excited about the new systems coming online.

"The MT-1000 is another addition in a series of new training capabilities coming to Guam," said Martin. "Over the last three years, NSTCP det Guam has expanded from a small office of four instructors to a staff of 20 by the end of the year, running a state of the art Attack Center, Submarine Bridge and integrated navigation trainer, Ship Control Operator Trainer (SCOT) and the new MT-1000 along with an advanced engineering Virtual Interactive Display Equipment (VIDE) trainer coming online in November."

The new facility was built by Kidde Fire Trainers, Inc. and shipped from Groton, Connecticut, to Guam in July. The MT-1000 has been undergoing acceptance testing throughout August and will be ready to train submariners in September.

"The submarine force and Submarine Learning Center (SLC) have provided considerable resources to buy, build and man this schoolhouse," said Martin. "Guam continues to provide excellent state of the art training to the forward deployed submarines equal to any submarine homeport."

NSTCP det Guam is located at Polaris Point in Apra Harbor, Guam and shares a building with Commander, Submarine Squadron 15. Together, they are responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support of four Los Angeles-class attack submarines stationed in Guam and submarines deployed throughout the Pacific Ocean. The submarines and submarine tenders USS Frank Cable (AS 40) and USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, visit http://www.csp.navy.mil/css15 and https://www.facebook.com/SubmarineSquadron15/.

For more news from Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific detachment Guam, visit https://www.facebook.com/NSTCPDETGUAM/.

For more news from NSTCP or SLC, visit http://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/slc/nstcp/.

Thinking of being stationed in Guam? Check out http://www.csp.navy.mil/go-guam/ for more information. ***(PR)***

Multi-agency and international partners rescue 2 from uninhabited island in Pacific

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Two mariners who were stranded on an uninhabited Pacific island in Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia, are safe, Friday, after writing "SOS" in the sand.

A Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft crew from Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 was responding to a report from AMVER vessel British Mariner of flashing lights when they spotted survivors on the beach near the makeshift sign. This information was then relayed to search and rescue coordinators at Coast Guard Sector Guam. The survivors were picked up and transferred by patrol boat Palikir to Nomwin Atoll.

Watchstanders at Sector Guam command center received notification Aug. 19 from Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT) of an overdue 18 ft. vessel with two people aboard en route Tamatam Island, Federated States of Micronesia. The couple departed Weno Island Aug. 17 with limited supplies and no emergency equipment on board en route Tamatam with an expected arrival of Aug. 18.

While conducting a search pattern provided by Sector Guam's watchstanders, AMVER vessel British Mariner spotted light signals from a nearby island Aug. 24. Based on this information, Sector Guam requested deployment of a U.S. Navy P-8 aircraft crew to investigate the source of light. The P-8 crew successfully located the survivors and Sector Guam watchstanders then contacted patrol boat Palikir who rescued the survivors Aug. 26.

During the seven-day search, Sector Guam watchstanders coordinated the assistance of 14 AMVER vessels, two aircraft crews and one FSM National Police Patrol boat, searching a total of 16,571 square miles.

AMVER, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, is a computer-based voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and request the ships' to divert and respond. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A pair of stranded mariners signal for help by writing "SOS" in the sand as a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft crew from Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 flies over in support of a Coast Guard search and rescue mission.

Business

Can Clinton save health overhaul from its mounting problems?

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the hourglass running out for his administration, President Barack Obama's health care law is struggling in many parts of the country. Double-digit premium increases and exits by big-name insurers have caused some to wonder whether "Obamacare" will go down as a failed experiment.

If Democrat Hillary Clinton wins the White House, expect her to mount a rescue effort. But how much Clinton could do depends on finding willing partners in Congress and among Republican governors, a real political challenge.

"There are turbulent waters," said Kathleen Sebelius, Obama's first secretary of Health and Human Services. "But do I see this as a death knell? No."

AP

In this May 2, 2016 file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton listens to Dr. Christopher Beckett, CEO of Williamson Health and Wellness Center during a tour an exam room of the facility in Williamson, W.Va.

Next year's health insurance sign-up season starts a week before the Nov. 8 election, and the previews have been brutal. Premiums are expected to go up sharply in many insurance marketplaces, which offer subsidized private coverage to people lacking access to job-based plans.

At the same time, retrenchment by insurers that have lost hundreds of millions of dollars means that more areas will become one-insurer markets, losing the benefits of competition. The consulting firm Avalere Health projects that seven states will only have one insurer in each of their marketplace regions next year.

Administration officials say insurers set prices too low in a bid to gain market share, and the correction is leading to sticker shock. Insurers blame the problems on sicker-than-expected customers, disappointing enrollment and a premium stabilization system that failed to work as advertised. They also say some people are gaming the system, taking advantage of guaranteed coverage to get medical care only when they are sick.

Not all state markets are in trouble. What is more important, most of the 11 million people covered through HealthCare.gov and its state-run counterparts will be cushioned from premium increases by government subsidies that rise with the cost.

But many customers may have to switch to less comprehensive plans to keep their monthly premiums down. And millions of people who buy individual policies outside the government marketplaces get no financial help. They will have to pay the full increases or go without coverage and risk fines. (People with employer coverage and Medicare are largely unaffected.)

German economy minister says EU-US trade talks have failed

BERLIN (AP)—Free trade talks between the European Union and the United States have failed, Germany's economy minister said Sunday, citing a lack of progress on any of the major sections of the long-running negotiations.

Both Washington and Brussels have pushed for a deal by the end of the year, despite strong misgivings among some EU member states over the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or TTIP.

Sigmar Gabriel, who is also Germany's vice chancellor, compared the TTIP negotiations unfavorably with a free trade deal forged between the 28-nation EU and Canada, which he said was fairer for both sides.

"In my opinion, the negotiations with the United States have de facto failed, even though nobody is really admitting it," Gabriel said during a question-and-answer session with citizens in Berlin.

He noted that in 14 rounds of talks, the two sides haven't agreed on a single common item out of 27 chapters being discussed.

Gabriel accused Washington of being "angry" about the deal that the EU struck with Canada, known as CETA, because it contains elements the U.S. doesn't want to see in the TTIP.

"We mustn't submit to the American proposals," said Gabriel, who is also the head of Germany's center-left Social Democratic Party.

In Washington, there was no immediate comment from the office of the U.S. trade representative.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UK leader May, Cabinet to chart EU exit at Chequers retreat

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May is bringing her Cabinet together at her rural retreat to plot Britain's first steps on leaving the European Union. Officials at May's Downing Street office say May will oversee a daylong brainstorming session with Cabinet colleagues Wednesday at Chequers, the prime minister's 16th-century mansion 40 miles (65 kilometers) northwest of London. May, a Eurosceptic who remained neutral during June's referendum on leaving the EU, was appointed prime minister last month following David Cameron's resignation as Conservative Party leader. Cameron had campaigned to keep Britain in the 28-nation bloc. May says her government will abide by the results of the vote and intends to open exit negotiations with EU colleagues next year.

Russia to resume charter flights for tourists to Turkey

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia has lifted its ban on charter flights to Turkey, opening the way to a resumption of the package tours that were a major source of revenue for Turkey. In rescinding the ban on Sunday, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said he was doing so on the orders of President Vladimir Putin. Russia imposed the ban in November after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane at the Syrian border, an action that Putin denounced as a "treacherous stab in the back." After Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan apologized for the downing, he and Putin patched up relations at a meeting three weeks ago. Putin said then that charter flights to Turkey could resume "in the near future," but added that painstaking work was still needed to revive trade and economic cooperation.

2 United pilots suspected of being drunk arrested in Glasgow

LONDON (AP)—Two United Airlines pilots who have been arrested for suspected intoxication before they were to fly 141 passengers from Scotland to the United States will appear in a Scottish court Monday, police said. The Police Service of Scotland said it arrested both pilots Saturday at Glasgow Airport and both men, aged 45 and 35, would be arraigned at a court in Paisley, a Glasgow suburb, to face charges connected to Britain's transport safety laws. United Airlines said Saturday's flight from Glasgow to the U.S. city of Newark, New Jersey, was delayed for 10 hours while the airline sought replacement pilots.

Don't promise promotions to unproven employees

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: I don't know how to tell an employee that she won't be receiving an expected promotion. "Greta" will willingly take on any task but pays no attention to details. We've had many discussions about the errors she makes, yet her work still hasn't improved.

Greta worked here before, and she had the same problem then. I only hired her back because she understands our policies and her recent references were good. I specifically stated that this time she had to be more detail-oriented.

Greta took this job with the understanding that eventually she could become a manager. Unfortunately, I have now concluded that she's much too careless to be given more responsibility. How can I break the news to her without sounding harsh?

A: This dilemma contains two valuable lessons. First, interviewers should never make predictions about promotions, salary increases or any benefit which might be affected by changing circumstances. When these possibilities don't materialize, applicants inevitably view them as broken promises.

Second, when considering familiar candidates, managers must remember that past behavior is the best predictor of future behavior. Hiring someone with a problematic history usually means those problems will reappear.

Given Greta's current track record, explaining why she won't be promoted should not be difficult. And simply reviewing the facts hardly qualifies as "harsh."

For example: "Greta, when you were hired, we discussed the possibility of your becoming a manager. At that time, I stressed that attention to detail would be very important. As you know, you've been making a lot of errors in your current job, so I'm afraid that you can't be considered for a management position."

Greta will undoubtedly be disappointed. But if she truly wanted that promotion, she would have put more effort into correcting her work.

Q: One of my co-workers recently married our boss. Now everyone wonders what information they may be sharing about the rest of us. We try to avoid talking to them, but that's hard to do because we work in a small medical clinic.

Our CEO apparently has no problem with their relationship, because he was the best man at their wedding. This clinic is partly owned by a large hospital, but we've been told they have no policy against employees marrying each other. What should we do?

A: While there may be nothing wrong with co-workers getting married, there is everything wrong with a manager marrying an employee. When making decisions about compensation, assignments or appraisals, managers need to remain unbiased and objective. There's no way to be impartial about your spouse.

For that reason, professionally run organizations never give managers authority over family members. If a manager and employee marry, then one of them must change jobs. So even if your hospital allows employee marriages, supervising relatives may still be prohibited.

The hospital's human resources department should know whether such a prohibition exists and whether the ownership agreement allows it to be applied to your clinic. But if not, perhaps the HR manager would agree to have a helpful chat with your CEO about the problems posed by this arrangement.

Nation

In flooded Louisiana city, even modest recovery raises hope

DENHAM SPRINGS, La. (AP)—In 23 years of coaching football, Dru Nettles never had to deliver a pep talk like this.

Most of his players and coaches on Denham Springs High School's football team lost homes when floodwaters ravaged their city in suburban Baton Rouge. Their battered school remains closed, but the team has a season-opening home game to play in two weeks.

Before they practiced Wednesday for the first time since the floods, Nettles sat them down on the purple logo at midfield and asked if they had seen aerial photographs of their inundated school.

"If you look at the back of campus, the one thing that didn't go underwater was this logo," Nettles said. "Awesome sign right there that this 'DS' was shining ... to give people hope."

The promise of Friday night football is tonic for a city at the epicenter of the catastrophe. Even the most modest signs of recovery are lifting weary spirits in Denham Springs, where flooding damaged an estimated 90 percent of homes and businesses.

Block by block, garbage trucks equipped with metal jaws are scooping up mounds of rancid debris from curbs and yards. Postal workers are delivering mail again. Insurance adjusters are inspecting gutted houses. A fast-food restaurant reopened near the interstate that had been underwater.

"Everybody is trying so hard to get back to normalcy as much as they can. Yes, we are seeing progress. Every day, we finally see another business come back online," said Denham Springs Mayor Gerard Landry.

But he fears it could take years for this city to fully recover after more than 2 feet of rain fell in the area over a three-day period two weeks ago.

"The devastating thing is that so many people didn't have flood insurance," Landry said. "In most parts of this city, it was not required."

Elvin Watts had no flood insurance for his shop in the touristy downtown antiques district. Watts, 69, estimates he lost up to $85,000 of inventory—almost everything he had inside Theater Antiques Mall.

"Little by little, it's going to the curb because it's starting to mildew," Watts said. "We're pretty much back to square one here."

AP
Denham Springs Mayor Gerard Landry, right, visits with Charles Relan, owner of Chandler's Antiques, as he tours the flood damaged downtown of Denham Springs, La., Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016. Landry fears it could take years for this city to fully recover after water fell in the area.

Watts and his brother-in-law, John Houston, were cleaning up the shop Wednesday when a postal worker delivered his mail for the first time since the floods.

"Is that your renewal for your flood insurance?" Houston jokingly asked Watts, who laughed.

Gallows humor helps many cope with numbing loss.

Richard and Bridgette Harrington moved into their dream home a few weeks before nearly 4 feet of water demolished the house and ruined more than $20,000 in brand-new furniture. Their flood policy doesn't cover the home's contents, including a $5,000 bed in which they slept just one night before the deluge came.

"The most expensive night's sleep ever," Richard Harrington said.

The Harringtons and their two daughters, 16 and 12, took a break from cleaning to watch a debris removal crew haul away their waterlogged possessions. At the bottom of the piles were an old doll that their youngest daughter, Bella, had named after herself and a toy wagon that once belonged to their son, now 20.

"It will feel like a new start if we can get this stuff taken away," Richard Harrington said.

"It's weird to be excited by your lifetime's collection being trashed," his wife added.

The floodwaters spared little in this city, where many of the 10,000 residents were drawn by top-notch public schools and proximity to Louisiana's capitol.

City Hall and the police department's headquarters both flooded. Landry has moved his staff to the old city hall, which had become a museum. Volunteers are helping repair police headquarters while dispatchers handle radio calls from a mobile command center in the parking lot.

Scientists exit Hawaii dome after yearlong Mars simulation

HILO, Hawaii (AP)—Six scientists have completed a yearlong Mars simulation in Hawaii, where they lived in a dome in near isolation.

For the past year, the group in the dome on a Mauna Loa mountain could go outside only while wearing spacesuits.

On Sunday, the simulation ended, and the scientists emerged.

Cyprien Verseux, a crew member from France, said the simulation shows a mission to Mars can succeed.

"I can give you my personal impression which is that a mission to Mars in the close future is realistic. I think the technological and psychological obstacles can be overcome," Verseux said.

Christiane Heinicke, a crew member from Germany, said the scientists were able to find their own water in a dry climate.

"Showing that it works, you can actually get water from the ground that is seemingly dry. It would work on Mars and the implication is that you would be able to get water on Mars from this little greenhouse construct," she said.

Tristan Bassingthwaighte, a doctor of architecture candidate at University of Hawaii, served as the crew's architect.

"The UH research going on up here is just super vital when it comes to picking crews, figuring out how people are going to actually work on different kinds of missions, and sort of the human factors element of space travel, colonization, whatever it is you are actually looking at," Bassingthwaighte said.

Kim Binsted, principal investigator for the Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS), said the researchers are looking forward to getting in the ocean and eating fresh produce and other foods that weren't available in the dome.

"HI-SEAS is an example of international collaborative research hosted and run by the University of Hawai'i. So it's really exciting to be able to welcome the crew back to earth and back to Hawai'i after a year on Mars," Binsted said.

NASA funded the study run through the University of Hawaii. Binsted said the simulation was the second-longest of its kind after a mission that lasted 520 days in Russia.

Scientists in the Hawaii simulation managed limited resources while conducting research and working to avoid personal conflicts.

More than 300 at wake for 2 nuns killed in Mississippi

DURANT, Miss. (AP)—More than 300 people came to a small church Sunday evening to say farewell to two nuns killed in their Mississippi home, even though more than half had to watch the service called vigil for the deceased on a monitor outside.

A funeral Mass for Sisters Margaret Held and Paula Merrill, both 68, will be celebrated Monday at the cathedral in Jackson, even as authorities continue to investigate the harrowing crime.

About 145 people filled St. Thomas Church in Lexington, where the nuns led Bible study. A monitor was placed outside where another 160 people sat on folding chairs and others stood to watch the service led by Bishop Joseph Kopacz of the Jackson Diocese.

The church's priest, the Rev. Gregory Plata, spoke about how far-reaching the nuns' work was, and how much they'll be missed.

They worked in a clinic for the poor in Lexington, about 10 miles from their home in Durant.

The final hymn, described as Sister Margaret Held's favorite, was "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

Afterward, , nuns from the dead women's orders, people from other faiths, and members of the community, black and white, embraced the women's families.

The killing shocked people in the small communities where the women committed their lives to helping the poor.

Rodney Earl Sanders, 46, of Kosciusko, Mississippi, has been arrested and charged in the stabbings. The county sheriff said Sanders confessed to the killings although many people are struggling to comprehend why anyone would want to take the two women's lives.

Their bodies were found in their Durant, Mississippi, home after they failed to show up for work Thursday at the health clinic.

Willie March, the sheriff of Holmes County where the killings occurred, said Saturday that police work and tips from the community led police to Sanders. Authorities have said Sanders was developed as a person of interest early in the investigation.

March said he had been briefed by Durant police and Mississippi Bureau of Investigation officials who took part in Sanders' interrogation and was told that Sanders confessed to the killings and gave no reason for the crimes. The sheriff said the investigation is ongoing.

2 Chicago men charged in shooting of NBA star Wade's cousin

CHICAGO (AP)—Two brothers who were on parole for prior criminal activity have been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of the cousin of NBA star Dwyane Wade, Chicago police announced Sunday.

Darwin Sorrells Jr., 26, and Derren Sorrells, 22, also were charged with attempted murder in Friday's shooting. They appeared in court Sunday and were ordered held without bail.

Nykea Aldridge, a 32-year-old mother of four, was pushing her baby in a stroller near a school where she'd planned to register her children when she was shot in the head and arm. She wasn't the intended target, Cmdr. Brendan Deenihan said at a news conference Sunday, but rather a driver who had just dropped off passengers in the neighborhood.

There is video of the incident, Deenihan said, but no weapon was recovered and police don't know where the weapon is.

Chicago has been in the throes of a major uptick in gun violence this year, largely centered in a few South and West Side neighborhoods, after years of seeing declines. This July alone, there were 65 homicides—the most for that month since 2006.

Superintendent Eddie Johnson said the suspects are an example of the city's problem with repeat offenders, which he has spoken about frequently in recent months. Darwin Sorrells was sentenced to six years in prison in January 2013 on a gun charge and was released early on parole. Derren Sorrells is a known gang member who is also on parole for motor vehicle theft and escape, police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said, adding he has six felony arrests on his record.

"They don't care who they shoot and they don't fear the consequences," Johnson said, noting as he has in the past that about 1,400 people are driving 85 percent of the city's gun violence. He added that the city has gotten very good at predicting who will be the perpetrators and the victims of gun violence.

Dozens of people gathered at a Chicago church Sunday for a prayer service to remember Aldridge. Her parents, sister, nieces and nephews wept as they spoke about the woman they said was a gifted writer and "fighter of the family."

Asia

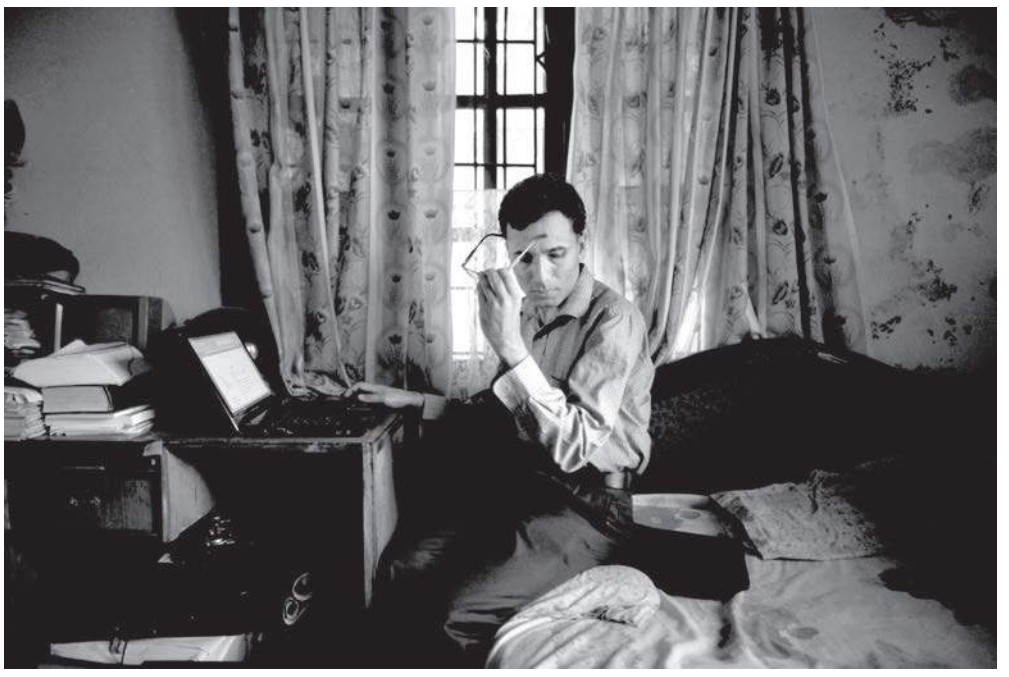
Survivors of Nepal insurgency fear crimes will go unpunished

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—The image of the teacher's body tied to a tree and riddled with bullets still haunts his son 14 years later. Communist militants allegedly dragged the Nepalese man from the class he was teaching and then killed him for refusing to give part of his salary to fund their bloody rebellion.

Suman Adhikari has little hope he will get justice for his father's death—not with the same Maoist fighters-turned-politicians controlling the Himalayan country's government.

Despite international pressure and government promises, including by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) themselves, Adhikari and thousands of other conflict victims are still waiting for information about loved ones who were among the 17,000 killed or hundreds who disappeared during the decade-long insurgency demanding an end to the country's now-defunct monarchy.

"The Maoists want everyone to forgive and forget whatever happened during the conflict, but that is not acceptable to us," said 40-year-old Adhikari, who works for a Kathmandu-based charity that works with the deaf.



AP

In this photo taken on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016, Suman Adhikari, son of Muktinath Adhikari, is seen at his home in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Earlier this month, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal became Nepal's prime minister, leading the poor and politically fractious country's ninth coalition government in 10 years. His ascent to the top elected position completed the Maoist's political rehabilitation started in 2006 when they signed a U.N.-brokered peace accord to end their guerrilla campaign against authorities.

Meanwhile, Nepal is still beset by ethnic conflict and protests against its new constitution, and coping from widespread damage caused by earthquakes that killed thousands last year.

For victims of the old insurgency, the Maoists' rise was nothing to celebrate. Those hoping for resolution from a newly assembled Truth and Reconciliation Committee fear the Maoists will seek to sweep away post-conflict cases by delaying investigations, ignoring advice to prosecute or even legislating for a general amnesty that would absolve all crimes.

With the committee's mandate expiring in February next year, some of its 100 staff members admit they have neither the time nor the manpower to investigate the more than 53,000 complaints alleging human rights violations unless the government extends its mission. None of the cases have been resolved so far.

"In the time we have left, I don't think we will be able to deal with even a fraction of the number of cases we have in our hands," commissioner Madhavi Bhatta told The Associated Press. They also have asked the government to revise the rules for investigating, for example, to include torture as a listed crime and to extend the six-month statute of limitations on rape so that decades-old assault allegations can be considered. The committee can only recommend prosecution for government lawyers to pursue; it cannot take such action on its own.

The Maoists have pledged they will not seek amnesty and would help bring justice for "victims of crimes outside of war rules," according to spokeswoman Pampha Bhusal.

"We will not suppress these cases but will resolve them," she said. "We are going to resolve all these issues on the basis of international norms and human rights and the peace agreement we signed."

Victims and rights groups expressed doubt about the Maoists' sincerity.

In one of their recent pushes for a general amnesty, the Maoists in May forced then-Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli to sign an agreement saying the government would "immediately initiate the process to withdraw or give clemency on insurgency-era cases and other politically-motivated cases filed on various occasions"

Indian police arrest key Kashmiri separatist leader

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Police in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir have arrested one of the key separatist leaders spearheading protests against Indian rule in the disputed region, officials said Saturday.

Police arrested Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who was already under house arrest, late Friday and locked him up in a government facility in Srinagar, the region's main city, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with department policy.

Farooq is among the leaders who have been jointly issuing weekly protest calendars, challenging India's sovereignty over Kashmir.

A strict curfew and a tightening crackdown by authorities have failed to stop some of Kashmir's largest protests against Indian rule in recent years, triggered by the killing of a popular rebel commander on July 8. Since then, tens of thousands of people have defied the curfew, staged protests and clashed with government forces.

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, the region's top elected official, met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday, seeking a comprehensive dialogue with Kashmiri separatist leaders and neighboring Pakistan to try to resolve the dispute over Kashmir.

The weeks of unrest in the region have intensified already strained relations between archrivals India and Pakistan, who both control parts of the Himalayan territory and claim it in its entirety.

Kashmiri separatist leaders, most of them either under house arrest or in police detention, have vowed to continue their struggle and refused to participate in any dialogue before New Delhi accepts Kashmir as a disputed region, releases political prisoners, revokes harsh emergency laws and announces a plan for demilitarization.

Mufti defended the 50-day-old curfew in the region, where residents have struggled to cope with shortages of food, medicine and other necessities.

"The main objective of the curfew is to save the lives of young people. What else can we do?" she told reporters after the meeting.

Australia plan for vote on gay marriage hits stumbling block

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The government's plan to hold a popular vote on whether Australia should allow same-sex marriage suffered a setback Monday when a political party announced it would not support the proposed plebiscite.

The Nick Xenophon Team, which supports marriage equality, said its three senators would not support legislation to authorize the plebiscite, which would effectively become a 160 million Australian dollar ($120 million) opinion poll without legal weight. Even if most Australians voted for same-sex marriage, conservative government lawmakers could still block the reform in Parliament, the party said.

Another party that favors gay marriage, the Greens, announced last week that it was also against holding the plebiscite. That leaves the opposition center-left Labor Party as the government's only hope of getting the Senate to back holding a popular vote on same-sex marriage.

Labor leader Bill Shorten supports marriage equality but has recently stepped up his attacks on the plebiscite plan. But Labor is waiting to see the proposed legislation for the vote before announcing whether its senators would back it.

"The quickest path to resolving this issue would be a vote in the Parliament, and that's what we will be seeking to do in the coming days and weeks," Shorten said Monday.

The Nick Xenophon Team and Greens agree with Labor that Parliament should decide without waiting for a non-binding popular vote.

"We should never put questions of human rights to an opinion poll," Greens leader Richard Di Natale said Friday.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull agreed to hold the plebiscite in a deal with gay marriage opponents within his party. In return, those opponents backed Turnbull in an internal leadership ballot that toppled Prime Minister Tony Abbott a year ago.

Turnbull, a gay marriage advocate, had previously spoken out against such a public vote that could create painful divisions in Australian society.

Gay marriage lobbyists are generally opposed to the plebiscite, which they argue was initiated by lawmakers who hope it fails.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH president says no genocide in his bloody drug war

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president says his bloody anti-drug campaign that has left nearly 1,800 people dead does not amount to genocide, but that he is ready to go to jail to defend his men from lawsuits. President Rodrigo Duterte drew a line Monday between the widespread killings sparked by his anti-drug battle and the brutality under Syrian President Bashar Assad and the atrocities committed by Islamic State group extremists. Pressing his campaign, Duterte announced bounties of 2 million pesos ($42,000) for information that will help the government identify any police officer protecting drug syndicates. Police say at least 1,779 drug suspects have been killed in the campaign, including 712 who were gunned down in clashes with police, with the rest being slain in still-unclear circumstances.

Filipino militants free 8 comrades, 15 others in jail attack

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines (AP)—Muslim extremists supporting the Islamic State group freed eight fellow militants in a daring attack that also allowed 15 other inmates to escape from a provincial jail in the southern Philippines, police said Sunday. About 20 heavily-armed fighters of the Maute militant group stormed the Lanao del Sur provincial jail in Marawi city before nightfall Saturday, disarmed the guards and rescued their eight comrades. The attackers also seized two rifles from guards, police said. The eight who escaped were arrested a week ago when they were caught with a homemade bomb in van at a security checkpoint. The others who escaped, apparently to divert the attention of authorities, were facing murder and illegal drugs charges.

Pakistan says 4 militants behind 2009 cricket attack killed

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani officials say four Islamic extremists allegedly involved in a 2009 attack on the visiting Sri Lankan cricket team have been killed in a shootout with police. The officials did not identify the militants or their armed group. The attack on the cricket team killed six police and two bystanders, and wounded six cricket players. The Pakistani Taliban and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, an affiliated extremist group, claimed the attack, which was carried out by 10 gunmen. A counterterrorism official says the shootout erupted late Saturday on the edge of Lahore when other gunmen tried to break the militants out of police custody. Another senior official confirmed the account. Both spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing retribution.

World

Italy probes whether negligence played role in quake toll

AMATRICE, Italy (AP)—Italian authorities are vowing to investigate whether negligence or fraud in adhering to building codes played a role in the high death toll in last week's earthquake in Italy.

They also called for efforts to ensure organized crime doesn't infiltrate lucrative construction contracts to eventually rebuild much of the picturesque towns leveled in the disaster.

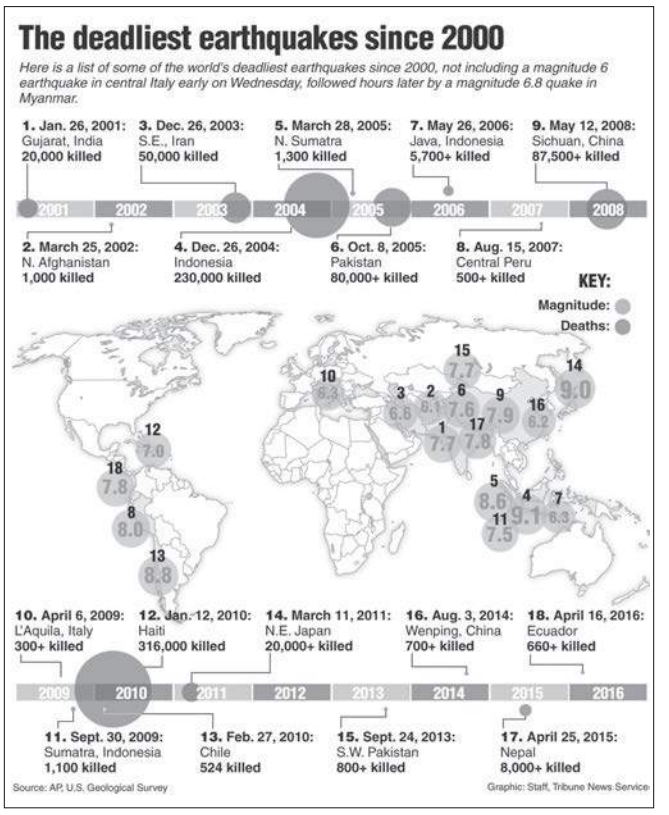
Meanwhile, rescue workers pressed on with the task of recovering bodies from the rubble, with hopes of finding any more survivors virtually vanished more than four full days after the powerful quake.

Over the past two days, they found six more bodies in the rubble of Hotel Roma in Amatrice, the medieval hill town in mountainous central Italy that bore the brunt of destruction and loss of life in the powerful quake. They recovered three and by late Sunday were still working to retrieve others that were hard to reach.

It wasn't clear if those six were included in the overall 290 death toll given by authorities. The Civil Protection agency, which combines the figures it receives from different provinces affected by the quake, said the number is lower than the previous toll of 291 dead due to a correction in the numbers from the province of Rieti, where most of the victims died.

The quake that struck before dawn Wednesday also injured nearly 400 people as it flattened three medieval towns near the rugged Apennines. Prosecutor Giuseppe Saieva, based in the nearby provincial capital of Rieti, said the high human death toll "cannot only be considered the work of fate."

"The fault lines tragically did their work and this is called destiny, but if the buildings had been built like in Japan they would not have collapsed," Saieva said in comments carried by Italian media.


The deadliest earthquakes since 2000
Here is a list of some of the world's deadliest earthquakes since 2000, not including a magnitude 6 earthquake in central Italy early on Wednesday, followed hours later by a magnitude 6.8 quake in Myanmar.
1. Jan. 26, 2001: Gujarat, India 20,000 killed
2. March 25, 2002: N. Afghanistan 1,000 killed
3. Dec. 26, 2003: S.E., Iran 50,000 killed
4. Dec. 26, 2004: Indonesia 230,000 killed
5. March 28, 2005: N. Sumatra 1,300 killed
6. Oct. 8, 2005: Pakistan 80,000+ killed
7. May 26, 2006: Java, Indonesia 5,700+ killed
8. Aug. 15, 2007: Central Peru 500+ killed
9. May 12, 2008: Sichuan, China 87,500+ killed
10. April 6, 2009: L'Aquila, Italy 300+ killed
11. Sept. 30, 2009: Sumatra, Indonesia 1,100 killed
12. Jan. 12, 2010: Haiti 316,000 killed
13. Feb. 27, 2010: Chile 524 killed
14. March 11, 2011: N.E. Japan 20,000+ killed
15. Sept. 24, 2013: S.W. Pakistan 800+ killed
16. Aug. 3, 2014: Wenping, China 700+ killed
17. April 25, 2015: Nepal 8,000+ killed
18. April 16, 2016: Ecuador 660+ killed
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016
KEY:
Magnitude:
Deaths:
Source: AP, U.S. Geological Survey
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Investigations are focusing on a number of structures, including an elementary school in Amatrice that crumbled despite being renovated in 2012 to resist earthquakes at a cost of 700,000 euros ($785,000). With schoolchildren's summer vacations in their final weeks, the school wasn't yet in use. Many were shocked that it didn't withstand the 6.2 magnitude quake.

After an entire first-grade class and a teacher were killed in a 2002 quake in the southern town of San Giuliano di Puglia, Italian officials had pledged citizens that the safety of schools, hospitals and other critical public buildings would be guaranteed.

Questions also surround a bell tower in Accumoli that collapsed, killing a family of four sleeping in a neighboring house, including a baby of 8 months and a 7-year-old boy. That bell tower also had been recently restored with special funds allocated after Italy's last major earthquake, which struck nearby L'Aquila in 2009.

Italy's national anti-Mafia prosecutor, Franco Roberti, vowed to work to prevent organized crime from infiltrating public works projects which will be eventually begun to rebuild the earthquake zone.

"This risk of infiltration is always high," he said in comments Sunday in La Repubblica newspaper. "Post-earthquake reconstruction is historically a tempting morsel for criminal groups and colluding business interests."

Deadly quakes that have led to criminal investigations into alleged misuse of funds or corruption involving awarding of construction contracts include the 1980 temblor in the Naples area and a 2009 quake in L'Aquila, central Italy.

Roberti noted he wasn't involved in the local prosecutors' probes into last week's quake. But he added that if buildings are well-constructed according to regulations for earthquake-prone zones, "parts of buildings can be damaged and cracked but they don't pulverize and implode."

Italy's national museums, meanwhile, embarked on a fundraising campaign, donating their Sunday proceeds to relief and reconstruction efforts in the quake-stricken areas.

Besides homes and low-rise apartment buildings, Wednesday's quake badly damaged scores of churches, town halls, bell towers and other centuries-old cultural treasures. The idea is to use art for art—harnessing the nation's rich artistic heritage to help repair and restore other objects of beauty in the hard-hit towns.

"It's a way to rediscover our cultural heritage, to give our small but significant contribution so that endangered artwork that was gravely damaged may have a new chance, be restored and recovered," Cristiana Collu, the director of Rome's National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art Museum, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Also Sunday, Pope Francis told faithful in St. Peter's Square he hopes to soon visit people in the quake-ravaged regions to bring them "the comfort of faith."

Turkish president vows to 'destroy terrorists'

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey's president vowed on Sunday to "destroy terrorists" after months of deadly attacks throughout the country and reiterated his claim that a child suicide bomber was responsible for last weekend's explosion that claimed at least 54 lives in the southeast.

Speaking at a rally in Gaziantep where the suicide bombing took place at a Kurdish wedding, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the "terrorists" are being "picked up one by one" by Turkey's security forces.

"They will all be cleansed out like a cancer cell," he told a roaring crowd of his supporters. "We will find them and punish them."

Last week, Erdogan said a 12- to 14-year-old child was the suicide bomber, but Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said later that the bomber was still unidentified and investigations continued. On Sunday, Erdogan reiterated the claim without saying whether it's a result of the investigation.

"Terror has used a 14-year-old child as a suicide bomber and shed blood, killed people," he said. "In this attack, our 54 citizens, including 34 children, died."

Authorities have blamed the Islamic State group for the Gaziantep attack, but neither IS nor any other militant groups have claimed responsibility.

Erdogan repeated that the country's parliament will decide whether to reintroduce a death penalty in the wake of a failed coup on July 15 that claimed at least 270 lives. That has triggered an outcry by rights groups in Turkey and the West.

"My nation wants the death penalty," he said. "That is the decision of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey."

Turkey has sent tanks across the Syrian border following weeks of deadly attacks by the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or the PKK, and IS. The move aims to both fight IS and halt the advance of Syrian Kurdish groups.

On Sunday, two separate blasts in the Turkey's Kurdish-dominated southeast killed one Turkish soldier and wounded eight others, and Kurdish militants launched a rocket-propelled grenade at a civilian airport, officials and the state-run news agency said.

One soldier was killed and three were wounded after a roadside bomb was triggered remotely by rebels linked to the PKK in the Hakkari province, the state-run Anadolu Agency said. In the ensuing firefight that included army helicopters, 10 militants were killed, the private Dogan news agency said. The report couldn't be independently verified.

In another attack, five civilian village guards were wounded in Siirt province after their van hit an improvised

FARC sets permanent cease-fire under Colombia peace deal

HAVANA (AP)—The commander of Colombia's biggest rebel movement said Sunday its fighters will permanently cease hostilities with the government beginning with the first minute of Monday, as a result of their peace accord ending one of the world's longest-running conflicts.

Rodrigo Londono, leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, made the announcement in Havana, where the two sides negotiated for four years before announcing the peace deal Wednesday.

"Never again will parents be burying their sons and daughters killed in the war," said Londono, who also known as Timochenko. "All rivalries and grudges will remain in the past."

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos announced on Friday that his military would cease attacks on the FARC beginning Monday.

Colombia is expected to hold a national referendum Oct. 2 to give voters the chance to approve the deal for ending a half-century of political violence that has claimed more than 220,000 lives and driven more than 5 million people from their homes

Top FARC commanders are planning to gather one final time in mid-September to ratify the accord.

FARC guerrillas are supposed to turn over their weapons within six months after the deal is formally signed. In return, the FARC's still unnamed future political movement will be given a minimum 10 congressional seats—five in the lower house, five in the Senate—for two legislative periods.

In addition, 16 lower house seats will be created for grassroots activists in rural areas traditionally neglected by the state and in which existing political parties will be banned from running candidates. Critics of the peace process contend that will further boost the rebels' post-conflict political power.

After 2026, both arrangements would end and the former rebels would have to demonstrate their political strength at the ballot box.

Not all hostilities are ending under the deal with the FARC. The much-smaller National Liberation Army remains active in Colombia, although it is pursuing its own peace deal with the government.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nobody hurt in blast outside Brussels criminology institute

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgian media say unidentified attackers have detonated a bomb outside Belgium's criminology institute in the capital, Brussels, but the building was empty and nobody was injured. State broadcaster RTBF and other outlets reported Monday that a car drove through a security barrier at the site about 2 a.m. (0000 GMT), followed by an explosion that caused significant damage to the facility on Brussels' north side. Police have deployed in force and sealed off the area. The institute assists and advises Belgium's justice authorities in carrying out their investigations. Belgium has been on high alert since coordinated March 22 suicide bomb attacks on the Brussels airport and subway killed 32 people.

Saudis say rocket fired from Yemen kills 2 children

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi officials say a rocket fired from Yemen hit a family's home in Saudi Arabia's southern border region of Najran, killing two children and wounding five other people. The kingdom's Civil Defense force said Sunday that those killed and wounded were all members of the same family. Saudi forces and Shiite Houthi rebels fire missiles and rockets across the border at one another on a daily basis. Yemen is embroiled in a civil war pitting the internationally recognized government and a Saudi-led coalition against the Shiite Houthi rebels and army units loyal to a former president. The fighting has allowed al-Qaida and an Islamic State affiliate in Yemen to expand their reach, particularly in the country's south.

Focus

MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Visitor misbehavior abounds as US parks agency turns 100

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP)—Tourist John Gleason crept through the grass, four small children close behind, inching toward a bull elk with antlers like small trees at the edge of a meadow in Yellowstone National Park.

"They're going to give me a heart attack," said Gleason's mother-in-law, Barbara Henry, as the group came within about a dozen yards of the massive animal.

The elk's ears then pricked up, and it eyed the children and Washington state man before leaping up a hillside. Other tourists—likewise ignoring rules to keep 25 yards from wildlife—picked up the pursuit, snapping pictures as they pressed forward and forced the animal into headlong retreat.

Record visitor numbers at the nation's first national park have transformed its annual summer rush into a sometimes dangerous frenzy, with selfie-taking tourists routinely breaking park rules and getting too close to Yellowstone's storied elk herds, grizzly bears, wolves and bison.

Law enforcement records obtained by The Associated Press suggest such problems are on the rise at the park, offering a stark illustration of the pressures facing some of America's most treasured lands as the National Park Service marks its 100th anniversary.

From Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains to the Grand Canyon of Arizona, major parks are grappling with illegal camping, vandalism, theft of resources, wildlife harassment and other visitor misbehavior, according to the records obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

In July alone, law enforcement rangers handled more than 11,000 incidents at the 10 most visited national parks.

In Yellowstone, rangers are recording more wildlife violations, more people treading on sensitive thermal areas and more camping in off-limit areas. The rule-breaking puts visitors in harm's way and can damage resources and displace wildlife, officials said.

Often the incidents go unaddressed, such as when Gleason and the children approached the bull elk with no park personnel around. Gleason said he was "maybe" too close but felt comfortable in the situation as an experienced hunter who's spent lots of time outdoors.

AP

In this Aug. 3, 2016 photo, a large bison blocks traffic in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park as tourists take photos of the animal.

In this Aug. 3, 2016 photo, tourists take photos of elk outside Yellowstone National Park's Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel. AP

These transgressions add to rangers' growing workload that includes traffic violations, searches for missing hikers and pets running off-leash in parks.

"It's more like going to a carnival. If you look at the cumulative impacts, the trends are not good," said Susan Clark, a Yale University professor of wildlife ecology who has been conducting research in the Yellowstone area for 48 years. "The basic question is, 'What is the appropriate relationship with humans and nature?' We as a society have not been clear about what that ought to be, and so it's really, really messy and nasty."

Recent events at Yellowstone grabbed national headlines:

- A Canadian tourist who put a bison calf in his SUV hoping to save it, ending with wildlife workers euthanizing the animal when they could not reunite it with its herd.

- Three visitors from Asia cited on separate occasions for illegally collecting water from the park's thermal features.

- A Washington state man killed after leaving a designated boardwalk and falling into a near-boiling hot spring.

The flouting of park rules stems from disbelief among visitors that they will get hurt, said Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk. "I can't tell you how many times I have to talk to people and say, 'Step back. There's a dangerous animal,' and they look at me like I have three heads," he said.

Inconsistent record keeping, including a recent switch to a new criminal offenses reporting system, makes it difficult to identify trends that apply uniformly across the major parks.

But the records reviewed by the AP reveal the scope of visitor misbehavior is huge. In Yellowstone, administrators and outside observers including Clark say the park's problems have become more acute. That threatens its mission to manage its lands and wildlife "unimpaired" for future generations.

Beyond incidents that lead to citations are many more that result in warnings. More than 52,000 warnings were issued in 2015, up almost 20 percent from the year before.

Washington state resident Lisa Morrow's son was among the children Gleason led toward the elk. Despite safety advisories—and numerous examples of visitors getting gored by bison, mauled by bears and chased by elk—Morrow declared herself unafraid of the park's wildlife. She said she was eager to see a grizzly up close.

"I want to see one right there," Morrow said, pointing to a spot just feet away. "I'd throw it a cookie."

The top 10 parks by visitation collectively hosted almost 44 million people last year, according to National Park Service figures. That's a 26 percent increase from a decade earlier, or more than 9.1 million new visitors combined at Great Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Yosemite and the other national parks on the list.

Yellowstone boasts the most large, dangerous carnivores among those parks, but each has its risks. In Rocky Mountain National Park, it's elk that become more aggressive during mating season. In Yosemite, it's towering waterfalls where visitors insist on swimming near the edge. In the Grand Canyon, it's squirrels habituated to humans and sometimes quick to bite an outstretched hand.

Wenk said the rise in popularity of social media complicates keeping visitors safe.

"You take a picture of yourself standing 10 feet in front of a bison, and all of a sudden a few hundred people see it, and it's reposted—at the same time we're telling everybody wildlife is dangerous," Wenk said. "They get incongruous messages and then it happens. They get too close, and the bison charges."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

2017 Hyundai Santa Fe fails to resound in three-row crossover class

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The noise started when we hit cruising speed on the highway. It wasn't a particular noise, but noise in general coming from the back. And it wasn't coming from the kids.

My passenger and I figured maybe in the thrill of new car buttons, the kids accidentally cracked a window. They didn't. The 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe is just loud.

There are few exterior changes to the refreshed Santa Fe three-row crossover, which along with the smaller Santa Fe Sport, was redesigned for model year 2013. The grille gets broader and has another slat, complementing a wide, catfish-mouth lower vent with a slight splitter. Around back, the taillights are more rectangular than angular. Rocker panels on the doors get a flash of silver.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Hyundai Santa Fe Limited Ultimate at a glance

- **Vehicle type:** Three-row crossover
- **Base price:** $32,550
- **As tested:** $43,400 (excluding $895 delivery)
- **Engine:** 3.3-liter V-6
- **Transmission:** Six-speed automatic in AWD
- Parting shot: The imminent redesign should be quieter, better.

With 19-inch alloy wheels, the Santa Fe is one of the sharper looking three-row crossovers.

It looks better than the minivan, of course.

But the minivan is so much easier to get in and out of. You know this and do not care.

The third row sits low to the ground, according to the oldest kids riding in back. There is plenty of knee and head room, and the low seat enables Hyundai to retain the tapered crossover roofline that three-row-vehicle shoppers prefer to the uncarved block of the minivan.

The most significant upgrades to the Santa Fe are not seen but heard, including the slew of available advanced safety features ranging from lane departure warning to dynamic headlights, which are part of the $2,100 ultimate tech package in the test vehicle. Hyundai's safety bells and whistles are worth the price, though we had difficulty adjusting the distance setting on advanced cruise control.

Those interior improvements come at a cost of just over $43,000 in the top of the line Limited Ultimate trim with AWD.

I know.

Forget the antiquated notion that Hyundai makes budget cars; the fully loaded Santa Fe is competitive with other loaded three-row crossovers.

TNS

The 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe three-row crossover in Limited Ultimate trim is a pricey midsize crossover outmatched by the competition.

It's an expensive time — historically expensive time — to be a car shopper.

The features in the Santa Fe are premium, but the finish is not quite there. The faux wood on the dash feels faux, and the chrome elements are plastic. On the other hand, the layout of the redundant steering wheel buttons is intuitive and the center console phone storage area is a clever use of space.

It's not a bad car by any means, but the redesigned 2016 Mazda CX-9 three row is better at nearly everything that matters except the warranty.

The Santa Fe's naturally aspirated V-6 is pokey, there's no real burst, and the car moves larger than it looks from the outside. It has the body roll and numb detached steering of a minivan.

But the third row is roomier and there's more cargo volume despite being shorter (and easier to park) than the CX-9. Both the Honda Pilot and Ford Explorer are roomier in this segment; they're both a little more expensive when similarly equipped.

Only Hyundai has the sweeping panoramic sunroof, but I have to think that contributed to some of the road noise in the Santa Fe.

Some of that perceived noise might have come from being the last in a string of premium crossover test vehicles.

It wasn't so loud that three of the four grade schoolers couldn't fall asleep on the way home from an amusement park. And that's a sweet way to end a road trip.

UNDER THE HOOD:

Valve cover leak should be checked out

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: How big a deal is a valve cover leak? I was just told my car has one, and it's not a good time for me to pay for this right now. Could it wreck the engine if I waited maybe several months before getting it fixed?

-Janice D.

A: The seriousness of the leak and what's below the leak should be considered before making a decision. Valve covers are located at or near the top of an engine and the gasket, mostly to retain splashing oil, not pressurized oil. This means a gasket or seal flaw isn't likely to allow a large or dangerous loss of oil. The term "leak" could mean anything from minor seepage to consistent dripping. Seepage, perhaps just caused by dirt attracting dampness, is no big deal at all. And a dripping leak probably won't result in a big loss of oil but could be dangerous if it leaks downward onto the exhaust manifold, a possible ignition source. A dripping leak could also be moderately harmful if it soils nearby rubber engine mounts, spark plug wires, or other rubber and synthetic parts sensitive to oil. Many times the worst part of a valve cover oil leak is the mess it makes and the burning oil odor that results.

Q: Can you explain the tow-haul mode on my new pickup? What does it do? I occasionally tow a small trailer and am not sure if I should use it.

-Sam R.

A: Several manufacturers offer this feature and there are minor differences in their setups. Typically, selecting tow-haul mode results in the activation of an alternate software schedule, resulting in altered transmission shift points, line pressure, and torque converter clutch operation.

When hauling a heavy load, holding gears longer while accelerating and climbing hills provides optimum engine torque and eases stress on the transmission's torque converter. Doing this does use a bit more fuel, though. While driving through gentle hilly areas or cresting overpasses, tow-haul also reduces shift business. Proactive downshifting and holding gears while descending hills or decelerating to a stop eases load on the brakes and can provide greater vehicle control. Raising line pressures increases clamping forces on the transmission's clutches and firms the shifts to reduce slippage. More aggressive engagement of the torque converter clutch reduces transmission fluid temperature and assists engine braking during downhill travel and deceleration.

General Motor's tow-haul mode is optimized for a load equaling at least 75 percent of the truck's gross combined weight rating. A calibration like this is likely to be overkill for your light trailer and, while it won't hurt to use it, doing so could likely result in unnecessarily noisy and fuel-consuming operation. I frequently tow a trailer that weighs around 7,500 pounds and use GM's tow-haul mostly when driving in hilly, challenging terrain, preferring to use the manual shifting mode at other times, as the tow-haul deceleration and downshifting feature seems a bit aggressive for mild situations. I think it would be great if manufacturers could offer two tow-haul schedules, one for light and medium loads, another for heavy ones. One could select between the two, depending on load and conditions.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Death Announcement

In God's Care

Melencio "Mel" Yao Guevarra

March 6, 1956
Born in Manila, Philippines
Lived in Koblerville, Saipan
Passed Away on August 27, 2016 at
the tender age of 60 at his home.

The late child of Melencio Guevarra Sr and Loreta Yao and the late adopted child of Jose Lim and Raymunda Pina.

Mel is survived by his wife Zenaida C. Pili Guevarra, Mother of his children Lourdes C. Rivera; their children Jordan R. Guevarra of Kapolei, HI, Mary Meldez and Juan Carlos Duarte of Deerfield Beach, FL, Prescilla Divine and Timothy Lee Stanton of Kapolei, HI, Patrick John R. Guevarra of Koblerville, Saipan, and Martin James R. Guevarra of Kapolei, HI. His grandkids Carlos Alexander & Sofia Grace Duarte, Scarlett Leea & Skylar Liam "his wonder boy" Stanton and his siblings Melchor Guevarra, Dorothy Tiozon, Nenita Guevarra, Romeo Guevarra, Antonio Guevarra, Edwin Guevarra and several nieces and nephews and many family friends. He was the grandfather to his fur (pets) babies Ohana Lily Guevarra, Prince Ku'uipo, and Toes Stanton.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his grandparents, his adoptive parents, and his two elder brothers Gregorio and Nicolas Guevarra.

Melencio studied at University of Santo Tomas and Far Eastern University in the Philippines. He worked for Commonwealth Ports Authority also used to work for Daiken and several reputable companies.

Mel was a hard working, humble, loving, and all around great individual. He was willing to help anyone in need no matter how hard the task would be. He cherish his wife, his children, grandkids, and family friends. Other than spend time with his wife, he loved to facebook his kids and speak to them and his grandkids on the phone. One of the places he loved to go was Santa Lourdes located in the village of Kagman. He would travel on Sundays and holidays there to clear his mind and pray. He was loved by many.

Daily mass of intention is offered at St. Jude Church at 6pm except Tuesday, 8/30/16, mass will be offered at San Antonio Church at 6pm. On Saturday, 9/3/16, mass will be offered at 6am. Funeral announcement will be announced at a later date.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Wife, Children and Family

Life & Style

Beyonce slays at MTV VMAs; Britney Spears does not

Beyonce owned the MTV Video Music Awards—like she did in 2014—with a 16-minute performance featuring her recent hits from "Lemonade," working various stages with strong, layered vocals, skilled dance moves and even an outfit change - all as the audience watched in awe and cheered her on.

Queen B kicked of her strong set with "Pray You Catch Me" as blue lights beamed onstage. She was wearing white, but later stripped down to a black leotard with full sleeves as she sang "Hold Up" and "Sorry." She grew angry and twerked while performing "Don't Hurt Yourself" and ended with the anthemic "Formation."

"If y'all came to slay, sing along with me," she said.

The audience at Madison Square Garden watched intensely Sunday, at times recording the performance with their phones.

It was reminiscent of the 2014 VMAs, when Beyonce also performed for 16 minutes and accepted the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award. This year it is being awarded to Rihanna, who is splitting up her performances throughout the night.

Beyonce's top-notch performance was the opposite of Britney Spears, who returned to the VMA stage after 10 years. Not only did she lip sync, in typical fashion, she did so badly. Spears performed her hit "Make Me..." and danced slickly, but she didn't actually sing a word of the song live. She was joined by rapper G-Eazy - and she lip synched the hook to his hit song, "Me, Myself and I."

Beyonce is the top nominee with 11, including video of the year for "Formation." She won best female video, presented to her by four of the Final Five gymnast, excluding Gabby Douglas, who is hospitalized for a mouth infection.

AP

In this May 22, 2016 file photo, Britney Spears performs at the Billboard Music Awards at the T-Mobile Arena, in Las Vegas.

"Thank you to my fans. I love you," she said. "Have a beautiful night."

Beyonce was angel-winged and green-feathered with daughter Blue Ivy in tow as she arrived on the white carpet along with Sybrina Fulton, Lezley McSpadden and Gwen Carr, the mothers of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner, among others. They appeared in videos for Beyonce's "Lemonade" visual album and also make up the Mothers of the Movement, women of color who lost children to violence.

In typical and true Kanye West fashion, the rapper ranted onstage, touching on subjects from music to his beef with Taylor Swift to violence in his hometown Chicago. Before he debuted his music video for "Fade" on Sunday, West rambled onstage as the audience in New York City cheered him on.

"Now later tonight 'Famous' might lose to Beyonce but I can't be mad, I'm always wishing for Beyonce to win," said West, who will compete with Beyonce for video of the year, and also referring to the 2009 VMAs when he jumped onstage, stole Swift's microphone and said Beyonce should have won over the then-country singer.

He talked about his "Famous" video, which features what appears to be naked images of West, Swift, Kim Kardashian, Donald Trump and more. He even pointed to former girlfriend Amber Rose, who was in the audience and is also in the video.

"It was an expression of our now, our fame right now, us on the inside of the TV, you know, the audacity to put Anna Wintour right next to Donald Trump," he said.

"I put Ray J in it bro," he said, referring to Kardashian's ex with whom she did a sex tape.

"But if you think about last week it was 22 people murdered in Chicago," he continued. "You know, people come up to me like, 'Man, that's right! Take, tell Taylor this. Bro, like I love all y'all."

"That's why I called her," he said with a laugh.

West could have another memorable moment Sunday if he wins video of the year later in the show. Aside from Beyonce's "Formation," his competition includes Justin Bieber's "Sorry," Drake's "Hotline Bling" and Adele's "Hello."

Rihanna kicked off the show, performing a medley of her hit songs in a bright pink ensemble that matched her background dancers and the stage. She sang songs like "We Found Love" and "Where Have You Been" - sometimes letting the backing track do most of the work. She sang "Work" and other songs during a second performance, and will receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award.

Ariana Grande brought spin class to the VMA stage when she sang the reggae-tinged "Side to Side" with Nicki Minaj. Grande cycled while singing and was backed by female dancers imitating her. Male dancers lifted dumbbells and did other exercises, and at the end of their performance, Grande and Minaj put their male dancers' faces in front their crotches.

Michael Phelps said he's been inspired by hip-hop music before introducing Future, who Phelps said he listened to before swimming. The rapper-singer-producer performed his hit "(Expletive) Up Some Commas."

Drake won the first award for the night - best hip hop video for "Hotline Bling." Puff Daddy, who presented the award, said Drake was stuck in traffic. Calvin Harris won best male video - beating West's "Famous" - for "This is What You Came For," which featured Rihanna and was co-written with former girlfriend Swift. Harris accepted the award in a video message.

Fifth Harmony and Ty Dollar $ign won best collaboration video for "Work from Home." The girl group also won song of the summer for "Flex (All In My Head)."

Coldplay, Desiigner, Fergie and Alessia Cara earned multiple nominations, while David Bowie—who died from cancer earlier this year—is nominated for best direction, cinematography, art direction and editing for "Lazarus." The music video, which shows him looking frail in bed with bandaged eyes, was released just days before the icon's Jan. 10 death. ***(AP)***

WINNERS LIST

Winners of Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, presented at Madison Square Garden in New York:

- **Song of the summer:** Fifth Harmony, "All in My Head (Flex)."
- **Video of the year:** Beyonce, "Formation."
- **Female video:** Beyonce, "Hold Up."
- **Male video:** Calvin Harris feat. Rihanna, "This is What You Came For."
- **Hip-hop video:** Drake, "Hotline Bling."
- **Collaboration video:** Fifth Harmony feat. Ty Dolla $ign, "Work from Home."
- Breakthrough long-form video
- **New artist:** DNCE
- **Art direction:** David Bowie, "Blackstar."
- **Choreography:** Beyoncé, "Formation" (Chris Grant, Jaquel Knight, Dana Foglia)
- **Direction:** Beyoncé, "Formation" (Melina Matsoukas)
- **Cinematography: B**eyonce, "Formation" (Malik Sayeed)
- **Editing:** Beyonce, "Formation" (Jeff Selis)
- **Visual effects:** Coldplay, "Up & Up" (Vania Heymann, Gloria F X)

Winged Beyonce and her golden Blue Ivy win the VMA carpet

NEW YORK (AP)—Accompanied by daughter Blue Ivy sporting a big tulle train, Beyonce was angel-winged and green-feathered Sunday night on the white carpet of the MTV Video Music Awards, one of the wildest celebrity fashion parades of the year.

Sparkling from head to toe in the shade of mint, huge green jewels hanging from her ears, the queen wore her hair back and braided. Her hive of fans was pleased, breathless on Twitter, as her 4-year-old princess walked in gold, high top sneakers on, showing off a dainty jeweled head band worn at the front with two long braids.

From sparkly Superman T-shirts to bejeweled high top kicks, the VMAs is an anything-goes carpet, an opportunity for names large and smaller from TV, music and elsewhere to strut and clown for throngs of cameras live from Madison Square Garden.

Beyonce and Blue posed with Sybrina Fulton, Lezley McSpadden and Gwen Carr, the mothers of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner, among others. Collectively, they're in the Mothers of the Movement, women of color who lost children to violence and appeared in Beyonce's "Lemonade" visual album holding photos of their lost sons.

Nicki Minaj slayed in sexy royal blue, a clingy mermaid-style gown with a crisscross front and huge side cutouts. Walking in the tight outfit proved a challenge. Her accessory was Meek, wearing a black zip jacket with red rose appliques and a huge rectangle diamond necklace.

More subdued was Amber Rose in a black, double-breasted pantsuit, bra top out. Kim Kardashian also opted for black as she posed with hubby Kanye West, casual in a white short-sleeve T-shirt and white pants.

Britney Spears was in black, too, a form-flattering dress with a long open slash from the shoulder to the hip, her blonde locks long and loose.

Swinging her famous high ponytail, Ariana Grande blew kisses at the cameras in a tiny, flirty lace top off the shoulders with a pair of wide black trousers and black choker. Speaking of walking, Rita Ora had no trouble in towering platform shoes with a sheer black skirt with red feather accents and a black leather motorcycle jacket.

The impersonating cast of "RuPaul's Drag Race," meanwhile, did what they do best, walking as Lady Gaga in her meat dress, Spears and her famous snake (this one a fake) and Lil' Kim with one nipple covered only by a blue pastie.

The guys represented. Rapper Desiigner was bare-chested in a salmon suit, his eternally huge smile on his face and glittery chains around his neck. Nick Cannon was in white, including a turban, to go with his sleeveless T and long shorts, while 2 Chainz wore a red and green stripe bandanna scarf with a tasseled white long-sleeve shirt.

One of the evening's hosts, DJ Khaled, wore a sharp David August black suit.

The VMAs attracted many in MTV's reality stable, including "Teen Mom OG" Farrah Abraham as full-on Wonder Woman. The night also attracted a few supermodels, including Naomi Campbell in a short ivory dress and Joan Smalls in a clay red crop top.

Beyonce, left, and her daughter Blue Ivy arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards at Madison Square Garden on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016, in New York.

AP

Mariah Carey's sister arrested on prostitution charges

SAUGERTIES, N.Y. (AP)—The sister of pop star Mariah Carey has been arrested on prostitution charges in upstate New York.

Police tell the Daily Freeman of Kingston that 55-year-old Alison Carey was arrested in Saugerties (SAW'-ger-teez) on Friday following an investigation at a hotel. Police say she solicited money in exchange for sex from an undercover police officer.

Police describe Carey as a transient, and say she advertised her services online. Saugerties Police Chief Joseph Sinagra tells the newspaper that she identified herself as the performer's sister when she was arrested.

Carey is due in Saugerties Town Court on Aug. 30.

It wasn't immediately clear if she had an attorney who could comment on the charges.

AP
In this May 14, 2016 file photo, Mariah Carey attends the 27th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, in New York.

Burning Man gets mixed reaction in nearby small Nevada town

GERLACH, Nev. (AP)—The start of Burning Man this week means a mix of excitement and bitterness to the tiny town of Gerlach.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reports that the 120 residents are divided over the value of the counterculture festival, which started Sunday.

Campers and cars parade through the historic mining town located about a 90-minute drive northeast of Reno for the events.

Some residents enjoy capitalizing on it by setting up booths to sell items such as suntan lotion and goggles.

Others say it brings unwanted traffic jams and RV owners stopping on their property.

Supporters of Burning Man say the festival brings community and freedom of artistic expression that you can't find anywhere else.

The 9-day event in the Black Rock Desert is expected to draw 70,000 people.

Kanye West compares himself to Jobs, Disney, Hughes, Ford

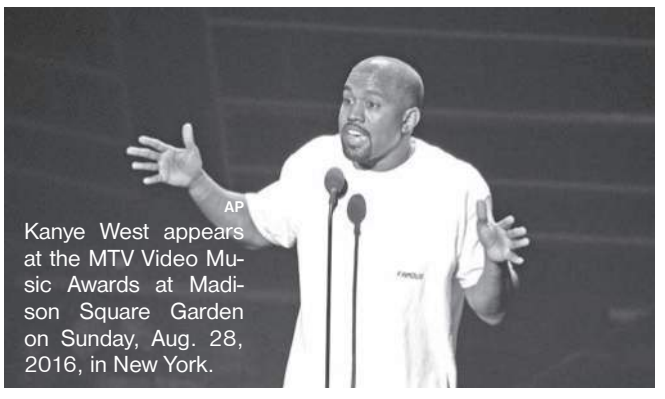
Kanye West compared himself to Walt Disney, Steve Jobs, Howard Hughes, Harry Truman and Henry Ford before unveiling his new video at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards.

West described himself as a "thought leader" in a rambling speech that included a defense of his "Famous" video and shout-out to former flame Amber Rose.

West said people stay impoverished when their esteem, resources and role models are taken away. He said that he and other guests at Sunday's show, such as Puff Daddy, Jaden Smith and wife Kim Kardashian, are "undeniably the influencers, the thought leaders."

The rapper also addressed his "Famous" video, a nominee at Sunday's show, which shows the nude likenesses of various celebrities including Taylor Swift and Donald Trump.

"This is fame, bro," the rapper said, name-dropping Trump, Rose and "Vogue" editor Anna Wintour.


AP
Kanye West appears at the MTV Video Music Awards at Madison Square Garden on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016, in New York.

Four of the Final Five from Rio get hugs from Beyonce

NEW YORK (AP)— Four of the Final Five gymnastics greats from the Rio Olympics wished ailing teammate Gabby Douglas well and got hugs from best female video winner Beyonce on Sunday night at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Simone Biles, in a girly red mini dress, had an attack of the giggles as she shared the stage with Aly Raisman, Laurie Hernandez and Madison Kocian.

"The fifth member of our team, Gabby Douglas, is having medical issues and unfortunately couldn't make it tonight," Biles said. "Feel better Gabby!"

Douglas was in a hospital for treatment of a mouth infection from a previous injury, said her publicist, Lesley Burbridge.

The four took turns introducing Beyonce and her contenders for the award. Kocian said, "Together with our teammate Gabby we accomplished something bigger than ourselves."

Between them, the five won nine medals, breaking the record of eight won by the 1984 and 2008 USA women's gymnastics teams.

The team picked a nickname in keeping with an Olympic gymnastics tradition started at the 1996 games in Atlanta.

The meaning behind the Final Five: Starting with the Tokyo Games in 2020, women gymnastics squads reportedly will only be allowed four members, plus Rio was the last turn for Marta Karolyi, the national team coordinator for USA Gymnastics since 2001.

The Rio crew is the fifth team Karolyi has led to victory since 2001.

"The five women nominated for best female video worked hard to be on top of their games," Raisman said from the VMA stage. "They're role models for us as we hope to be to a younger generation of women."

Michael Phelps put a name to his famous Phelpsface• Future

Phelps

NEW YORK (AP)—The most decorated Olympian of all time, swimmer Michael Phelps, offered a name to go with his famous Phelps face Sunday night and it's one word: Future.

Phelps introduced Future at the MTV Video Music Awards, revealing that he was listening to the rapper and singer when he was photographed grimacing, hood up, headphones on, sitting in a chair near rival Chad le Clos, from South Africa, before a race at the Rio Olympics.

The moment grew into a trending hashtag (Phelpsface) on Twitter during the games.

Live from Madison Square Garden, Phelps wore, well, clothes, a chill white shirt, black pants and black jacket to fawn over Future before the Atlanta artist performed.

Husband's longtime friendship is now forbidden by his wife

DEAR ABBY: I recently retired after 26 years of working with a professional partner of the opposite sex. Now my wife expects me to cut off all communication with her. There was never any intimacy or sexual attraction at all, just a friendship established over many years.

I have explained this to my wife many times, but she refuses to believe me and wants this person out of my life for good. How can I explain this to someone I have worked with for so many years? Is my wife's request reasonable? Can't married males have female friends, or am I restricted to only male friends for the rest of my life?

FENCED IN, IN WASHINGTON

DEAR FENCED IN: No, I do not think it is reasonable, and the implication is insulting not only to your former working partner but also to you. However, unless you can get to the bottom of your wife's obviously deep insecurity, find a way to reassure her and get her to deal with it, that is exactly what is going to happen. You may need the help of a marriage counselor, but it will be worth it because men who feel fenced in—trapped—don't usually stay happily married. How sad.

DEAR ABBY: I have a question for you and your readers. Why have baby boomers failed in the way they raised their children?

We were raised with honor, respect for authority (even a little fear), integrity, a hard work ethic, honesty, etc. The millennial generation, for the most part, lacks all of those qualities. They don't want to work, can't get off their mobile devices and don't want to leave home. They expect their parents to take care of them, and have no appreciation and no respect.

I'm not saying they are all that way, but the majority I have encountered are. I blame it on parents who didn't raise them with the same values they grew up with. What's your take on this, Dear Abby? How do we fix it?

ANONYMOUS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: There is no one-size-fits-all answer to your question, and frankly, whether the millennial generation lacks the qualities you listed is a matter of perspective. I would hesitate to paint a picture of an entire generation with one brushstroke. Readers, what do you think?

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have an issue. If I go away on business, I make sure to provide my travel information such as hotel and flight numbers. But when my husband goes away, he refuses to provide any information. I try to explain that if there's an emergency or an issue with flights, the information would be helpful. I can get nowhere with him regarding this matter. Any advice?

TRAVEL ISSUE IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR TRAVEL ISSUE: Yes, I'm sorry to say I do have some. People who are secretive usually have something to hide. It's time that you ascertain whether your husband is traveling for business as he claims, or whether it's for pleasure without you.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

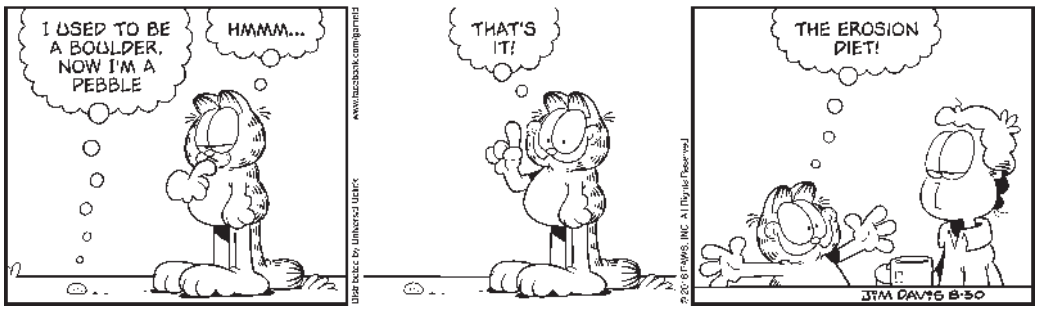
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THEY SAY ONCE YOU LEARN HOW TO RIDE A BICYCLE, YOU NEVER FORGET.
THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME.
WAARRGH!
IT WORKS ON THE SAME PRINCIPLE AS ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



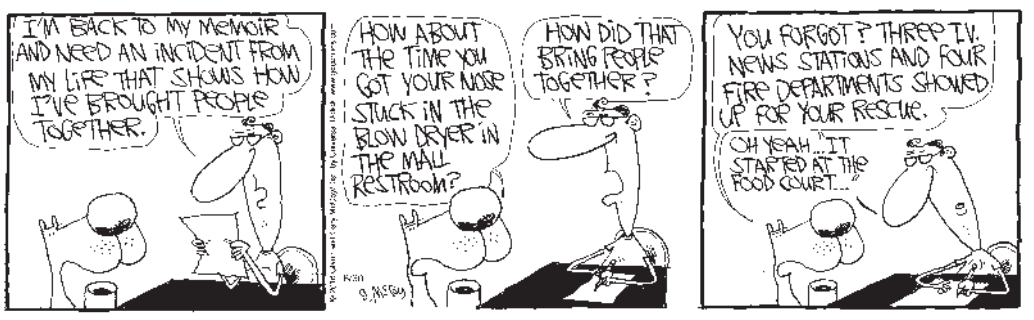
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU WEREN'T GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THE NEW ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PLACE??
I...I WASN'T. I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T NOTICE IT.
BUT I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE MORE FAITH IN YOUR SELF-CONTROL AND YOUR...
WHERE'D HE GO?
HE GRABBED HIS KEYS AND SHOT OUT OF HERE LIKE A FOOD-SEEKING MISSILE.
B-30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M BACK TO MY MEMOIR AND NEED AN INCIDENT FROM MY LIFE THAT SHOWS HOW I'VE BROUGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER.
HOW ABOUT THE TIME YOU GOT YOUR NOSE STUCK IN THE BLOW DRYER IN THE MALL RESTROOM?
HOW DID THAT BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER?
YOU FORGOT? THREE T.V. NEWS STATIONS AND FOUR FIRE DEPARTMENTS SHOWED UP FOR YOUR RESCUE.
OH YEAH... IT STARTED AT THE FOOD COURT...

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

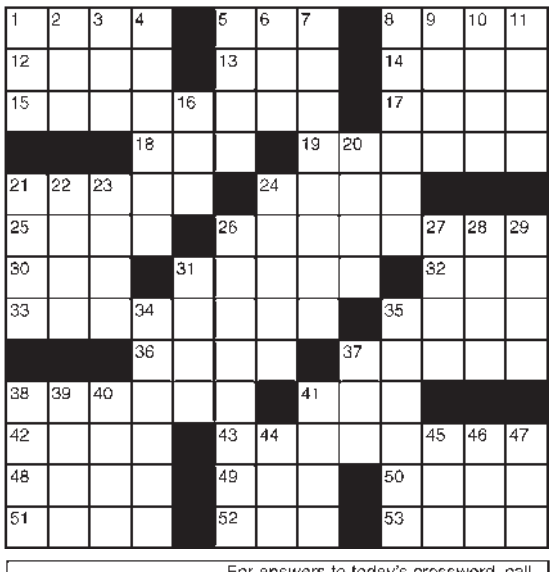
ACROSS
1 Pulverize potatoes
5 Small battery
8 Tempo
12 Margarine
13 "Nova" airer
14 Sicilian spouter
15 Duck-billed critter
17 Quitter's word
18 "— Kapital"
19 Showy shrub
21 Man of morals?
24 Hamilton-Burr showdown
25 Bluenose
26 Ohio city
30 Listener
31 Trousers
32 — Victor
33 Incentive
35 Pickling herb
36 Latin 101 word
37 Take five
38 Blockage
41 Blue bird
42 Sandwich cookie
43 Pisces preceder
48 Teri of "Tootsie"
49 Bad hairpiece
50 Pakistani language
51 Stately trees
52 Cyclades island
53 Inert gas

DOWN
1 Clear the deck?
2 100%
3 Salty expanse
4 Ballpark snack
5 PC programs
6 — Dhabi
7 Military attacks
8 "Do not panic!"
9 List-ending abbr.
10 Novelist Rice
11 "Toodle-oo!"
16 Shrill bark
20 Hera's hubby
21 Tarzan's clique
22 Part of Q.E.D.
23 Voice in an iPhone
24 Dunkable treat
26 Squid dish
27 Party cheese
28 Bruins' sch.
29 Polio vaccine discoverer
31 Cougar
34 College studies
35 Practice session
37 Sheepish remark
38 Theater section
39 Spoken
40 Bacterium
41 Rustic wine vessels
44 Status —
45 Rage
46 Japanese veggie
47 Day light?

Solution time: 22 mins.

V	A	N		S	A	N	T	A		S	P	A
P	A	Y		O	N	E	A	L		H	I	M
S	H	E	E	T	C	A	K	E		E	P	A
			S	R	I		E	R	N	E	S	T
B		S	Q	J	E		S	T	O	P		
A	C	H		C	N	D		S	L	D	A	N
N	E	E	D		T		P		N	O	L	A
A	D	F	E	R		A	I	B		G	A	M
		P	L	A	N		A	J	S	S	I	E
A	S	S	I	S	I		C	R	Y			
Y	U	K		S	H	E	E	T	P	O	C	K
E	M	I		L	I	M	B	O		H	C	E
S	O	N		E	L	T	O	N		T	C	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Roddick, 34; Lisa Ling, 43; Cameron Diaz, 44; Michael Chiklis, 53.

Happy Birthday: Refuse to be consumed with complications you cannot change. Go with the flow and focus on what is possible. Reach beyond your inner circle and explore what and who can help you reach your life goals. A change in direction or how you handle legal, medical or financial matters will give you the insight required to be successful. Your numbers are 5, 13, 24, 28, 37, 43, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Responding responsibly and taking control of situations as they arise will help you resolve issues swiftly and counter any criticism from peers. Be cautious when dealing with institutions. Protect your possessions and your reputation. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Reopen doors that have been closed for some time. Reuniting with old friends and colleagues will help you gain perspective on a situation you face. Your insights will help you recognize incorrect information and financial loss. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Bring about positive changes that will encourage you to better organize your time. Picking up information and mastering something you enjoy doing will open up new options. A physical improvement will boost your confidence and your popularity. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Handle your own affairs to ensure the safety of your cash, belongings and reputation. Don't let criticism stop you from doing things your way. You'll gain respect and recognition for your intelligence and insight. It's OK to show off. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): The feeling and passion you put into the projects you take on today will make a huge difference to the outcome. Speak from the heart and participate in bringing about positive change. Donate your time and skills, not your cash. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put in time organizing and taking care of domestic matters. Fixing something that will make your life more convenient will also help you avoid criticism. Don't overreact or indulge in senseless arguments that will lead to a stalemate. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Favors will be granted and changes can be put into place. The more progressive and persistent you are, the better. Don't give in to someone who pressures you unless you are happy with what you are getting in return. Put your own needs first. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be aware of emotional matters that can cloud your vision or cause a problem with one of your peers. Patience and understanding will help you avoid such problems if you express compassion for others. Look for new ways to make progress. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Sharing personal information will not work in your favor. Misinterpretation could result, leaving you in a no-win situation. Listen, observe and be secretive to maintain your status quo. Work on self-improvement and personal growth. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): An unexpected deal will come out of nowhere. Check your sources carefully and read the fine print. Don't feel the need to make a snap judgment. An idea will result from the encounter and evolve into an exciting new project. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Bring about the changes that will make you happy. An emotional partnership will flourish if you work together to build greater comfort and convenience at home. Do the grunt work and reap the rewards. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Live and learn. The response you receive from your peers will encourage you to follow the path that you find most interesting. A relationship will face changes that will determine its purpose and longevity. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, confident and intellectual. You are productive and reactionary.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3		6			
		6		1		9		
7		8				6		4
9			8		5			1
	1						7	
6			1		7			8
1		9				5		6
		5		2		8		
			9		8			

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	5	4	7	2	1	9	6
1	9	4	8	6	3	2	5	7
6	2	7	1	5	9	3	4	8
3	7	6	2	8	4	5	1	9
5	1	2	9	3	7	8	6	4
4	8	9	6	1	5	7	3	2
7	6	1	3	4	8	9	2	5
2	5	3	7	9	6	4	8	1
9	4	8	5	2	1	6	7	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FAMILY DAY AT THE BEACH Solution: 10 letters

S	S	L	E	R	O	H	S	E	L	G	G	O	G	S
E	L	P	E	L	Q	N	E	E	R	C	S	N	U	S
L	D	L	E	K	C	B	I	K	I	N	I	N	M	A
B	O	W	U	A	R	S	B	S	L	I	G	K	B	N
A	O	T	M	G	K	O	S	H	K	L	V	O	R	D
T	F	E	I	N	A	E	N	S	A	L	A	O	E	C
N	R	I	I	O	V	E	R	S	O	T	A	B	L	A
A	A	R	S	A	N	E	S	S	G	O	S	W	L	S
A	D	E	W	H	T	E	S	A	N	P	S	P	A	T
C	B	L	C	A	S	L	M	L	I	S	G	I	S	L
O	T	U	W	O	A	E	E	Y	V	Ⓢ	O	C	N	E
O	I	B	C	D	S	E	H	C	I	W	Ⓓ	N	A	S
L	D	C	N	S	U	R	F	A	D	L	L	Ⓘ	C	Y
E	E	A	Y	A	L	P	U	R	E	V	O	C	Ⓚ	O
R	S	U	N	S	E	T	I	U	S	M	I	W	S	T

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 8/30

Ball, BBQ, Bikini, Book, Camera, Cooler, Cover-up, Diving, Dogs, Drinks, Fish, Food, Games, Goggles, Hats, Kids, Lotion, Ocean, Picnic, Play, Sandals, Sandcastles, Sandwiches, Scuba, Seagulls, Shore, Snacks, Snorkel, Soccer, Speakers, Spot, Sunglasses, Sunscreen, Sunset, Surf, Swimsuit, Tables, Tide, Towel, Toys, Umbrella, Walks, Waterskiing, Waves

Yesterday's Answer: Scratching

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47,** order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick-up applications at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on September 01, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2905, ext. 128.

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Applicants of positions listed above except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

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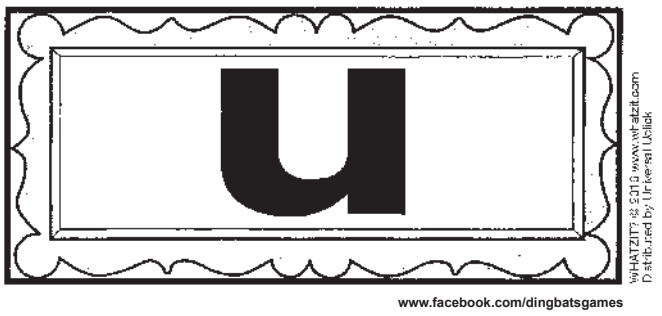

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Surging Royals beat Red Sox, still in playoff hunt

BOSTON (AP)—The Kansas City Royals keep finding different sources for timely hits during a red-hot August.

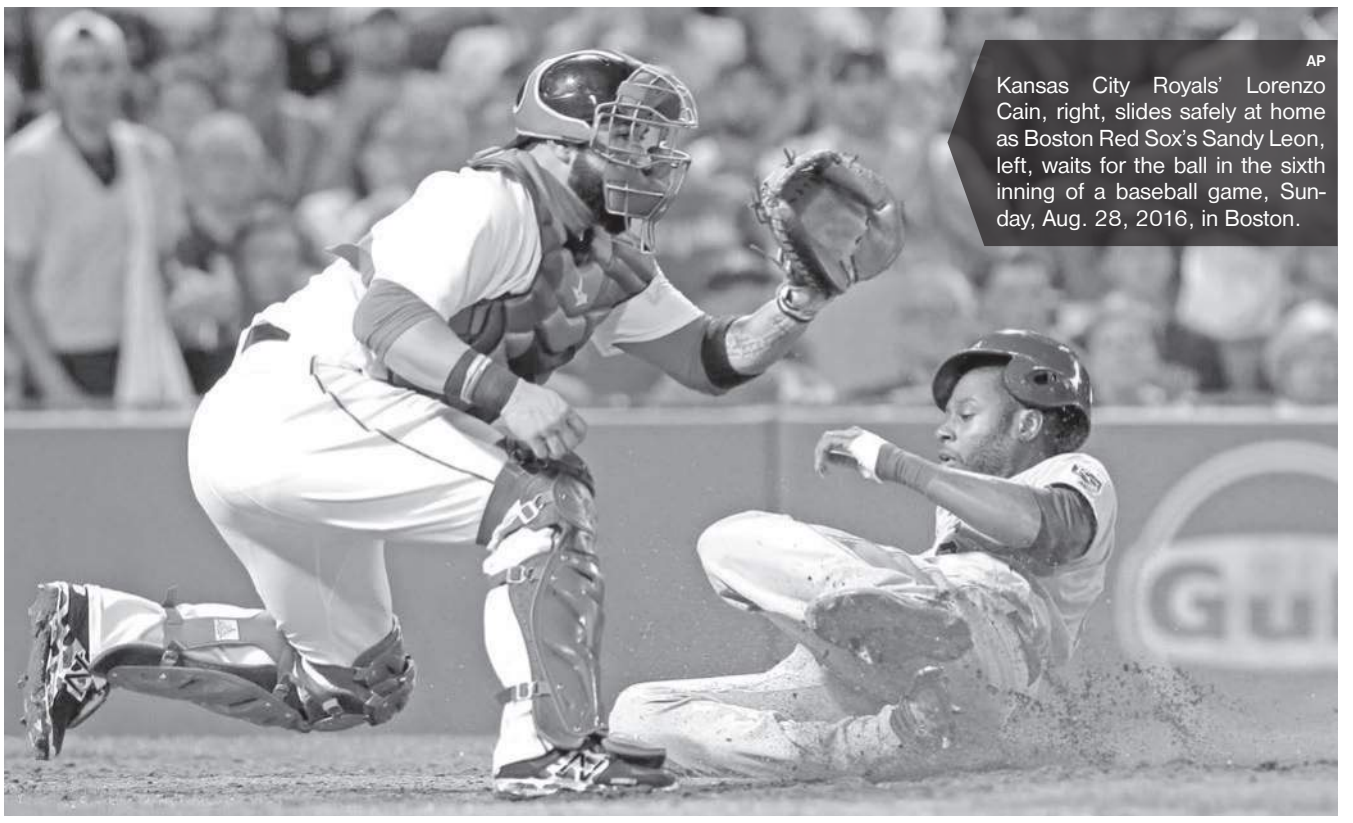
Raul Mondesi hit a bases-loaded triple and Eric Hosmer added a two-run single during an eight-run sixth inning, lifting the surging Royals to a 10-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday night.

Salvador Perez hit his third solo homer in two games for Kansas City, which took two of three at Fenway Park and got its 17th win in 21 games.

"You can ride guys like (Kendrys) Morales when they get hot or (Hosmer) when they get hot. But if you're going to have any kind of sustained winning streak, it's got to be everybody," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "It's got to be a different guy every night."

After nearly falling out of the playoff race, the defending World Series champs have cut their deficit to Cleveland in half and are 5 1/2 games back in the AL Central. They also cut 6 1/2 off their wild-card deficit.

David Ortiz hit his 534th career homer, a solo shot, for the Red Sox, tying Jimmie Foxx for 18th on the career list. Boston has lost four of five.



AP

Kansas City Royals' Lorenzo Cain, right, slides safely at home as Boston Red Sox's Sandy Leon, left, waits for the ball in the sixth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016, in Boston.

Blue Jays 9, Twins 6

In Toronto, Josh Donaldson had his first career three-homer game, Troy Tulowitzki also went deep and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Minnesota Twins to complete a three-game sweep.

Donaldson hit a solo homer off Kyle Gibson in the second, then delivered a go-ahead, two-run blast off Pat Light (0-1) in the seventh.

Dozens of fans tossed hats onto the field to celebrate the home run hat trick after Donaldson, the AL MVP in 2015, hit a solo shot off Alex Wimmers in the eighth.

Dodgers 1, Cubs 0

In Los Angeles, Brock Stewart and four relievers combined on a four-hitter and Andrew Toles scored on a fielder's choice in the eighth inning, leading Los Angeles past Jon Lester and Chicago.

Los Angeles remained two games ahead of San Francisco in the NL West.

Stewart struck out eight in five innings of two-hit ball, and Jesse Chavez, Grant Dayton, Joe Blanton and Kenley Jansen finished. Blanton (5-2) got the win, and Jansen worked the ninth for his 39th save.

Giants 13, Braves 4

In San Francisco, Joe Panik homered twice and matched his career high of four RBI to back Madison Bumgarner, and San Francisco beat Atlanta for its second series win since the All-Star break.

Panik hit a solo homer in the second and added a two-run shot in the fourth. The second baseman also reached on an infield single in the sixth and had a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Denard Span and Eduardo Nunez also homered, Brandon Crawford had three hits and Jarrett Parker drove in three runs for San Francisco.

Padres 3, Marlins 1

In Miami, rookie Luis Perdomo benefited from a team-record six double plays and pitched a six-hitter for his first complete game, helping San Diego beat Miami.

The complete game was the Padres' first this year.

Perdomo allowed the leadoff batter to reach in five innings, and each time the runner was erased on a double play grounder. In addition, after Perdomo gave up a one-out single in the seventh, Ichiro Suzuki lined out to the pitcher, who then trotted to first base to double off the runner.

Phillies 5, Mets 1

In New York, A.J. Ellis had a big hit in his Philadelphia debut, breaking a seventh-inning tie with a two-run double that sent the Phillies past New York.

Vince Velasquez and four relievers quieted a streaking Mets lineup that was minus ailing sluggers Yoenis Cespedes (quad) and Neil Walker (back).

Orioles 5, Yankees 0

In New York, Kevin Gausman tamed the torrid Yankees hitters, Mark Trumbo lined his major league-leading 40th home run and Steve Pearce also connected to help Baltimore avert a sweep.

The Orioles got battered in the first two games, outscored 27-9. Baltimore bounced back in the matchup between AL East contenders, halting its three-game skid and ending New York's winning string at four.

Rockies 5, Nationals 3

In Washington, Nolan Arenado went 4 for 4, hitting his 35th home run and a triple, and drove in three runs in Colorado's victory over Washington.

Arenado and David Dahl hit back-to-back home runs in the third inning off Nationals rookie Lucas Giolito. Chad Bettis (11-7) allowed two runs, both on solo homers, and five hits with six strikeouts over seven innings in his longest start since April 10.

Rangers 2, Indians 1

In Arlington, Derek Holland allowed one run over six innings, new left fielder Carlos Gomez made two highlight-reel catches and AL-best Texas beat Cleveland.

The Rangers took three of four in the series between division leaders, the first time since 1999 both teams were in first place when playing each other after the All-Star break.

Cleveland loaded the bases with one out in the ninth against closer Sam Dyson.

Athletics 7, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, rookie Andrew Triggs earned his first win and Stephen Vogt and Khris Davis homered to lead Oakland past St. Louis.

Triggs (1-1) allowed three runs on four hits, walked none and struck out eight in six innings. Ryan Madson pitched the ninth for his 27th save in 33 chances.

Jaime Garcia (10-10) gave up a three-run homer to Vogt with two out in the third and a two-run shot to Davis, his 34th, with two out in the first.

Angels 5, Tigers 0

In Detroit, former Tiger Jefry Marte had three RBI and Tyler Skaggs shut down Detroit in Los Angeles.

After scoring 35 runs in the four games before this series, the Tigers were limited to six runs in the three-game weekend set against the Angels. It is the ninth time this season the Tigers have been shut out.

The victory gave the Angels back-to-back road series wins for the first time this season.

Marte hit a two-run home run in the fifth inning off Anibal Sanchez (7-13).

Rays 10, Astros 4

In Houston, Chris Archer struck out 10 in seven innings, Corey Dickerson hit a three-run homer and Tampa Bay beat Houston.

Matt Duffy and Nick Franklin also went deep for the last-place Rays. They have homered in 21 of their last 24 games. Houston, in the hunt for an AL wild card, had won three straight.

Archer (8-17) gave up three runs on four hits and two walks.

White Sox 4, Mariners 1

In Chicago, Carlos Rodon pitched into the seventh inning, Justin Morneau had a two-run single and Melky Cabrera drove in a run and scored twice in Chicago's victory over Seattle.

Jose Abreu also drove in a run. Chicago took three of four in the series and has won six of eight.

Robinson Cano hit a solo homer, his 30th, and Kyle Seager had three hits for Seattle.

Diamondbacks 11, Reds 2

In Phoenix, Yasmany Tomas homered, Welington Castillo drove in four runs and Archie Bradley won for the first time in more than a month in Arizona's victory over Cincinnati.

Tomas delivered a pinch-hit three-run shot in the sixth inning off Reds reliever Ross Ohlendorf, his team-leading 27th of the season. Castillo had two hits, a run-scoring single in the fifth and an RBI double in the eighth, and knocked in runs with a fielder's choice grounder and a sacrifice fly.

Pirates 3, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Ivan Nova threw six sharp innings before leaving early because of a hurting left hamstring and Pittsburgh hit three solo homers to rally for its eighth straight road victory.

John Jaso and Gregory Polanco homered in the sixth off Brewers starter Chase Anderson (7-11) to complete Pittsburgh's first sweep at Miller Park since 2004. Starling Marte had a solo shot in the eighth.

Romo injury makes rookie Prescott sudden starter for Cowboys

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Dak Prescott grew up rooting for the Dallas Cowboys in Louisiana. He suddenly finds himself in line to start their opener as a rookie quarterback with Tony Romo sidelined by yet another back injury.

Receiver Brice Butler believes the fourth-round pick out of Mississippi State pictured this years ago.

"He ends up getting drafted here. Now he's the starting quarterback," Butler said Sunday. "I don't know if he thought it was going to happen this soon. But I'm pretty sure when he got here, he was like, I'm going to be the future of this franchise.

"He's in a situation now where he's the starter and basically that comment I just said is going to depend on how he plays. And I think he's ready for it."

The 23-year-old Prescott was the No. 3 quarterback for the Cowboys going into training camp before backup Kellen Moore broke his right ankle in practice.

Prescott was impressive enough in the first two preseason games to make owner and general manager Jerry Jones comfortable with him as Romo's backup, rather than bringing in a veteran.

After Romo broke a bone in his back on the third play of the third preseason game at Seattle, Jones is ready to roll with Prescott. Assuming the Cowboys do grab a veteran, it figures to be a backup for now. The current No. 2 is Jameill Showers, a second-year player who hasn't appeared in a regular-season game.

"I don't know if this stuff will ever hit me," said Prescott, set to be the first rookie quarterback to start the opener for Dallas since Quincy Carter 15 years ago. "I feel like I belong here. This is where I'm supposed to be. I just come in every day with the right attitude."

The Cowboys haven't said how long Romo will be out following his fourth back injury in less than four years, but it's likely to be the opener at the very least. Jones and his son, executive vice president of personnel Stephen Jones, have said they are comfortable giving Prescott a shot as the starter.

The next question is whether Prescott plays in the preseason finale against Houston on Thursday night. Starters generally sit out that game and turn their focus to the regular season. The Cowboys open Sept. 11 at home against the New York Giants.

Coach Jason Garrett wouldn't say whether Prescott will be held out against the Texans. Dallas has just the two quarterbacks on the roster, not counting Romo.

US Open: All eyes on Djokovic and Nadal

NEW YORK (AP)—All eyes will be on a very important pair of left wrists during Day 1 of the U.S. Open—those belonging to Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

Defending champion Djokovic, a righty, uses his secondary arm for a two-handed backhand. Nadal, of course, is a lefty who relies on that wing for his heavy topspin forehand that is among the best strokes in the game. How each man looks as he begins a bid for a third career title at Flushing Meadows will be one of the main things to watch Monday at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

The fourth-seeded Nadal, who beat Djokovic in the 2010 and 2013 finals, plays during the day session in Arthur Ashe Stadium against Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan. Nadal has won all four of their previous matchups, taking 10 of 11 sets.

Nadal missed 2 1/2 months because of a problem with the tendon sheath in his wrist, pulling out of the French Open before the third round, then skipping Wimbledon altogether. He returned at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics this month, losing to Kei Nishikori in the bronze-medal match in singles and winning a gold medal in doubles with Marc Lopez.

While he said he's feeling better day by day, Nadal also acknowledged "the wrist still bothers me a little bit."

The No. 1-seeded Djokovic, who defeated Nadal in the 2011 U.S. Open final and Roger Federer for last year's title, said his wrist began bothering him shortly before the start of the Rio Games, where he lost in the first round. He then withdrew from the Cincinnati Masters.

Djokovic practiced on Ashe on Sunday evening, with coach Boris Becker observing, and seemed to be hitting backhands without a hitch. What really matters is how Djokovic does under the lights Monday night against Jerzy Janowicz of Poland, a 2013 Wimbledon semifinalist whose career has been derailed by injuries and who entered the U.S. Open main draw via a protected ranking. They've never played each other.

Here is what else to watch Monday at the U.S. Open:

ROOF'S DEBUT: Not that it's any guarantee, but the forecast does not call for any rain. Still, even if the weather is dry, the new $150 million retractable roof atop the tournament's main arena will make a debut of sorts: The U.S. Tennis Association plans to shut the structure after the day session, then open it while Phil Collins performs "In the Air Tonight" during the opening-night ceremony.

OH, BROTHER: American siblings Ryan and Christian Harrison are the first brothers to get into the main draw of a Grand Slam tournament by both qualifying since at least 1982. The 120th-ranked Ryan - at 24, he's 2 years older than the 694th-ranked Christian - faces France's 54th-ranked Adrian Mannarino on Monday. Christian is scheduled to play Tuesday.

AP

Reigning U.S. Open men's singles tennis champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia speaks during a media availability at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Friday, Aug. 26, 2016 in New York.

U.S. CONTINGENT: The Harrisons are two of the half-dozen players from the United States who qualified, helping raise the country's total representation to 39 players (22 women, 17 men), the most in the U.S. Open since there were 40 in 2005. Monday's schedule includes these all-American matches: No. 8 Madison Keys vs. Alison Riske on Ashe at night, No. 20 John Isner vs. Frances Tiafoe, No. 26 Jack Sock vs. 18-year-old Taylor Fritz, and Madison Brengle vs. Kayla Day.

REMEMBER VINCI?: A year ago, Roberta Vinci was ranked 43rd, unseeded at the U.S. Open and author of one of the biggest upsets in tennis history, ending Serena Williams' bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam by beating her in the semifinals. Seeded No. 7 this time, Italy's Vinci returns to the site of her only major final, opening play in Ashe on Monday morning against Anna-Lena Friedsam. Following her on that court will be No. 2 Angelique Kerber, the Australian Open champion and Wimbledon runner-up, against Polona Hercog. Kerber is one of three women - Garbine Muguruza and Agnieszka Radwanska are the others - who could replace Williams at No. 1 in the WTA rankings by tournament's end.

Fowler misses US Ryder Cup slot

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—Rickie Fowler lost the lead, the tournament and a guaranteed spot on the Ryder Cup team.

Right when it looked as though Zach Johnson had played his way off the U.S. team, Fowler squandered a chance to earn the eighth and final automatic spot when he shot 39 on the back nine at The Barclays, capped off by two bogeys and a double bogey over his last four holes.

"Very disappointing," Fowler said. "Just made a couple bad swings at the wrong time."

Sunday was the final day for Americans to earn automatic spots on the team that will try to win the Ryder Cup back from Europe on Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 at Hazeltine at Minnesota.

Five of the spots were already clinched going into The Barclays - U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth, Phil Mickelson, PGA champion Jimmy Walker and Ryder Cup rookie Brooks Koepka.

Patrick Reed moved from No. 8 to No. 4 with his one-shot victory at Bethpage Black. Brandt Snedeker and Zach Johnson kept their spots.

Johnson tied for 48th, leaving himself vulnerable for being knocked out of the top eight when Fowler had a two-shot lead early in the final round. Fowler only needed to finish alone in third to overtake Johnson, and he was two shots ahead of third place with four holes to go.

That's when it all went wrong.

Reed gets off the bubble and into victory mode

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—Patrick Reed occupied the eighth and final spot in the Ryder Cup standings going into the final qualifying event, which brought him the attention no one wants. He was the guy on the bubble, and most of the chatter was negative.

Even more aggravating to Reed was that it was his own fault.

The American had developed the consistency he needed. Over the last 20 months, he had 22 finishes in the top 10 around the world, with five runner-ups. Missing during that stretch was winning, and that's all that matters to Reed.

"Because at the end of the day, a lot of top 10s ... it's great, but it's going to make you be on that bubble," Reed said. "I've had it feels like 100 top 10s this year. And I've just kind of stayed there on that No. 6, 7, 8, 9 on the Ryder Cup. And it takes something like a win to be able to solidify yourself."

The timing couldn't be better for Reed. The moment couldn't be better for his confidence.

He didn't flinch in the final round at The Barclays until he could afford a few mistakes. Reed went from a two-shot deficit early in the round to a three-shot lead with three holes to play, and he hung in from there for a 1-under 70 and a one-shot victory over Sean O'Hair and Emiliano Grillo.

"Top 10s are great for making a living," Reed said. "But at the end of the day, every time we play golf tournaments, we don't play for top 10s. We're going there to try to get a W and try to get hardware, try to get a trophy."

The crystal trophy was on the table, and Reed glanced at it every now and then.

It was his fifth victory on the PGA Tour, and even though he faced one of the strongest and deepest fields of the year, Reed still favors one of his early victories as the most significant.

That was two years ago in a World Golf Championship, when winning was still new to him.

"Probably the biggest difference between this week and that week was I had another guy in black and red in the group in front of me," Reed said with a smile.

That guy was Tiger Woods, whom Reed grew up idolizing to the point that he prefers to wear black trousers and a red shirt in the final group. That day at Doral, Woods played in the group ahead and Reed didn't blink. Woods was starting to cope with back issues—he would have the first of three back surgeries a month later - though Reed didn't give anyone much of a chance.

The victory at Bethpage required a little more work.

He trailed Rickie Fowler early, and even when he caught him with a birdie on the seventh hole, Reed felt another tournament slipping away.

Reed couldn't help but think about all the missed chances in the opening hour - four putts from 10 feet or in that failed to drop, including an 8-foot eagle attempt. He wondered if this was one of those stretches that had kept him from winning since the 2015 opener at Kapalua.

That's when his caddie, brother-in-law Kessler Karain, stepped in and told him to quit worrying about it and keep hitting good shots.

Lawson signs one-year contact with Kings

SACRAMENTO—Beleaguered free-agent point guard Ty Lawson has signed a one-year contract with the Sacramento Kings.

Lawson chose the Kings over the Pelicans, who also showed "serious interest," the report said. Financial terms were not immediately known.

The 28-year-old split last season with the Houston Rockets and Indiana Pacers after starting his career with the Denver Nuggets from 2009-2015. He averaged 14.2 points and 6.6 assists in Denver, including a career-high 17.2 points per game in 2014-15.

However, Lawson's stock tumbled in recent years stemming from a string of DUI arrests throughout his NBA career. Lawson averaged just 5.7 points and 3.6 assists per game with the Rockets last season and was eventually waived midway through the year. He then averaged 4.9 points per game in 13 contests with the Pacers.

Interest in Lawson on the open market thus was lukewarm, and in July he blamed "misconceptions" as a reason he went unsigned for so long.

The Kings were in search of a veteran point guard for depth behind Darren Collison, who is taking over the starting job left vacant by Rajon Rondo when he bolted for the Chicago Bulls in free agency.

Lawson will likely only have a small role—on a team in dire need of playmakers—until he proves he can stay out of trouble and still has the talent he displayed in Denver.

Meanwhile, David Stern isn't only an important NBA figure. The former commissioner, who helped bring NBA players into the Olympics, is also an important figure in the international game. That's why he's being inducted into the FIBA Hall of Fame this year as a contributor to the game.

Back in the late 1980s and early 90s, three men envisioned bringing NBA players into the Olympics. Along with former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, Stern worked with Borislav Stankovic to forever change international basketball.

"I am greatly honored to have been selected for induction into the FIBA Hall of Fame," said Stern. "I am proud of my collaboration with Borislav Stankovic to unite and strengthen basketball on a global basis, which has been continued by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann. It is also a great honor for me to be inducted with Hakeem Olajuwon and the other class of 2016 inductees who have contributed so much to our game."

Stern's influence over Basketball Without Borders camps and getting NBA played overseas also contributed, but the galvanizing force was helping make the Dream Team and subsequent teams (let's not count 2004) possible.

BSI CSR supports Labor Day softball tourney

Best Sunshine International helped run the 2016 CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held last weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

BSI had its Corporate Social Responsibility staff members working as umpires in the games, while BSI coordinator Edilynn Benjamin assisted CNMI Labor Day committee sports chair Jojo Attao in handling matches' statistics at the press box. Other BSI CSR staff members kept the field and its surrounding areas clean by setting up trash bags at the venue.

Fourteen teams joined the weekend tournament with the Saipan Mayor's Office winning the championship after shutting down the Casino Commission in the finale, 6-0.

The softball tournament was part of the CNMI Labor Day festivities.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International CSR staff members gather for a group photo before working as volunteers in the 2016 CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament last weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Best Sunshine International CSR staff member, right, umpires a game in the 2016 CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament last weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

BOLD

From Page 28

weekend competition with a 21-17 triumph over Can You Dig It, which had Steven Beyer, Natalie Hill, Greg Elliot, and Russ Quinn as members. Team Birru of Linda Anastacio, Dale Roberts, Nick Gross, Jessica Delos Reyes, and Tyler Willsey rounded out the Top 3.

Team Birru and Bold Guys and The Girl took the Top 2 seeding after the pool play and joined No. 3 Big Mac Meal, No. 4 Not Those Guys, No. 5 Can You Dig It, No. 6. Tinda Katne, No. 7 Slammed I am, No. 8 Misters, No. 9 Ace, and No. 10 Docomo in the playoffs.

Can You Dig It and Team Birru went on to advance to the second round following their 21-19 and 21-9 victories over Not Those Guys and Misters, respectively. The Bold Guys and The Girl, which topped Slammed I am, 21-16, and Tinda Katne—a 21-9 winner over Big Mac Meal—also marched into the winner's bracket quarterfinals.

A 21-9 victory over Can You Dig It kept Team Birru in the winner's bracket and in the semis, while the Bold Guys and The Girl gained the same spot following a 21-15 triumph versus Tinda Katne. The Bold Guys and The Girl extended its streak with a 21-16 win over Team Birru to claim the first finals berth.

Team Birru fell to the loser's bracket and faced Can You Dig It in a battle for the second and last finals ticket. Can You Dig it, after bowing to Team Birru in the second round, got back at the latter following a 21-14 win in the loser's bracket semis. Can You Dig It also prevailed against Slammed I am, 21-11, and Not Those Guys, 21-18, to remain in contention and challenge Team Birru for the last finals seat.

With Can You Dig It coming off the loser's bracket, it was pressed to beat the undefeated Bold Guys and The Girl in the championship round twice. However, the eventual winners made sure there will be no rubber match after taking Game 1 of the finals.

TEAM

From Page 28

six in a row for Team White when they slipped past Kim and Villaflor in the mixed BC doubles, 21-15, 16-21, 21-19. The women's BC doubles also went the distance with Team White's Nicole Malasarte and Lani Santos outlasting 21-16, 18-21, 21-19.

After playing extended matches in the first two pairings, Team White's bets took the short route to victories in the last three games. Pangilinan and Guerrero made short work of Macario and Espana in the men's AB doubles, 21-16, 21-13; Hilario and Malasarte edged Joe and Cheng Saturno in the mixed B doubles, 21-16, 21-17; and Taka and Oh triumphed over Kim and Banadera, 21-15, 21-16.

With the sweep, Team White scored a commanding 28-2 victory against Team Red and hiked its record to 78-27 after adding the 8 points it got against Red last Sunday.

Team White and Team Red played the first five games in their pairing with the former winning three of them for a slim 8-7 advantage. The last five matches will be played today, but regardless of the results of these games, Team White is already assured of the first finals berth. The Top 2 teams in the standings after the round-robin elimination will battle for the championship and Team Red (70-35/excluding point deductions based on tournament rules) is likely to challenge Team White for the title as the three other squads (Black, Pink, and Blue) are way down the ladder.

Results of Team Red' games and other pairings over the weekend will be reported later this week.

CNMI

From Page 28

listed Rosdianah, Anis Aishah, Norshahira Suhame, Alice Michael, Elsie Jawit, Henrietta Justine, Maizura, Emily Hellma, and Olevia besides Nurfaisah and Athirah on its first 11 roster. The winning squad used two substitutes in Ayuna Anjani and Nurfatin Binti Rozani, who both reported for the game in the second half.

Meanwhile, after a tight match against Malaysia, the CNMI players will be paired against the Philippines today. Game time is at 4pm (6pm Saipan time).

The Philippines won its debut after getting one goal apiece from midfielders Tejanee Isulat and Andrea Tiongson. Isulat found the back of the net early with her shot in the sixth minute, while Tingoson came off the bench and handed the PH its second goal in the 75th.

The CNMI-PH game will be played after the 11am (1pm) duel between Malaysia and South Korea.

After their showdown against the Philippines, the Commonwealth bets will take another break and will return to the pitch on Thursday to challenge South Korea in an 11am match. Taketomo's wards will then close out their pool play assignment this Saturday when they take on India in another 11am tiff.

2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Members and coaches of the North Pacific Team pose for a photo during the opening ceremony for the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held in Fiji two weeks ago.

Players line up during the parade of nations.

Coume Kaga waits for her opponent's return during their game in the girls U12 singles.

Ken Song returns to Robbie Schorr from the baseline.

Robbie Schorr makes a backhand return to fellow CNMI player Ken Song.

From left, the CNMI's Ji Min Woo, Seung Jin Paik, and the Tahiti pair pose with their medals during the awards ceremony for the boys U12 doubles.

Girls U14 doubles runners-up Malika Miyawaki, left, and Conatsu Kaga, second left, join Tahiti players in the awards presentation.

CNMI and North Pacific coach Jeff Race, back row, second right, joins the Commonwealth players for a group photo at the conclusion of the two-week tournament.

Surging Royals beat Red Sox, still in playoff hunt

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

US Open: All eyes on Djokovic and Nadal

PAGE 25

CNMI scores in AFC U16 tourney debut

Bold Guys and The Girl prevails

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Bold Guys and The Girl won the 4-person competition in the 2016 Endless Summer Beach Volleyball Classic held last Sunday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan

The champion squad was composed of Randy Steele, Chris Nelson, Bruce Berline, Dave Rillera, and Kriszell Esteves. The Bold Guys and The Girl was perfect in the 10-team double-elimination playoffs, capping their winning run in the

See BOLD on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kriszell Esteves makes a return during last weekend's 2016 Endless Summer Beach Volleyball Classic at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's starting 11 pose for a photo before playing against Malaysia in the AFC U16 Women's Championships 2017 Qualifier last Monday at the Luneng Football School in Weifang, China.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U16 Girls National Team drew first blood against Malaysia before losing the close match, 1-2, in the AFC U16 Women's Championships 2017 Qualifier last Monday night at the Luneng Football School in Weifang, China.

Co-captain Lyka Sally put the CNMI on the board with her goal in the 22nd minute off a direct kick from fellow midfielder Gillian Villagomez. Sally and company went on to keep the lead at halftime and in the first 18 minutes and change of the second half before Malaysia equalized off a goal from midfielder Nhor Athirah in the 64th minute.

Seven minutes later, Malaysia broke the deadlock, thanks to a shot from defender Siti Burfaizah. The Malaysians hung on to the shaky lead in the remaining minutes of the match to join the Philippines in the win column in Group B of the qualifier.

"The entire team did well despite the loss. The U16 Women's National Team fought hard despite the 2-1 loss to Malaysia. Goalkeeper Toremy Diaz was commended by the other team's coach for her excellent goal keeping skills," said assistant coach Patricia Coleman in a message sent to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association members and officials.

Diaz, Villagomez, Lyka Sally, Princess Alcantara, Jerlyn Santiago, Anela Duenas, Ericka Santiago, Samantha Manacop, Jobelle Tabuena, Esther Jones, and co-captain Guinevere Borja were the Commonwealth's starting 11 against Malaysia. Defender Grace Choi also played for the Taketomo Suzuki-coached CNMI, coming in for Jones in the 72nd minute

Malaysia, on the other hand,

See CNMI on Page 26

Team White sweeps Team Pink, gets finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team White showed no mercy to Team Pink, winning all the 10 division games in their duel last weekend in the 2016 Sun Palace Badminton Team Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

Chris Hilario and Nate Guerrero kicked off Team White's string of victories after sweeping Rodwealth Espana and Jojo Savellano in the men's B doubles, 21-17, 24-22, last Friday.

Team White's four other wins last Friday were also posted after only two games. In the men's C singles, Hajin Oh topped Taeho Kim, 21-11, 21-5; Jordan Pangilinan and Malou Malasarte defeated Jen Savellano and Daniel Macario in the mixed A doubles, 21-16, 21-16; Guerrero and Oh downed Espana and Jun Banadera in the men's BC singles, 21-15, 21-16; and Nicole Malasarte thwarted Cristy Villaflor in the women's B singles, 21-16, 21-13.

The remaining five matches in the Team White-Team Pink pairing took place last Saturday with the winning squad playing to let up to complete the sweep. Hilario and Alyssa Velasco made it

See TEAM on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Nate Guerrero goes for a backhand return, while teammate Chris Hilario stands back during their men's B doubles game against Rodwealth Espana and Jojo Savellano in the Sun Palace tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.